



January 2006

# Goodnewsletter

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Endings and Beginnings

Caye Caulker is a small island (four miles long by a half mile wide) off the coast of Belize in Central America. There is a small village on the northern point of the island, which sits on the second largest coral reef in the world. I originally visited Caye Caulker in 1994, staying in one of the dozen small, rustic, family-owned hotels. There were a few restaurants on the waterfront, decks protruding out over the water, which served wonderful seafood dishes and played reggae background music. Sail boating, snorkeling, and relaxing were the day's activities. Life was slow and easy.

Last January, I had the opportunity to revisit Caye Caulker. The village had changed dramatically after a hurricane passed through a few years ago. I didn't recognize anything. Gone were the hotels that I remembered. Gone were the restaurants that I ate at. And the village itself was larger with more tourists, more water sport options, many more hotels and restaurants

and businesses. I had dreamed of returning to Caye Caulker to see and experience the island village as I remembered it. But I was overwhelmed by the change, and I missed the old Caye Caulker.

Yet, during my stay on the island last January, I realized that, although Caye Caulker changed physically, the lifestyle remained the same. Slowly, I began to enjoy the new Caye Caulker that I was experiencing, and now the memories of my 2005 visit are just as exciting as those of 1994.

Yes, things change. Sometime we don't like or appreciate the changes, yet change occurs anyway. Often we fight those changes—trying to turn back the hands of time; holding on to cherished memories like they are not memories but present-day reality, etc. And there are few places where people fight change more than in the church. We like our church to be just like it was in our youth or just like it was in its heyday. Other things may change, but our church must/should remain the same. Yet, that doesn't

happen. It can't happen. Nor, should it happen.

As our community changes the church needs to change with it. The way our gospel message is proclaimed needs to constantly be changing to keep up with the times so that the message can be received. Yet, the message itself remains constant. The gospel message is an eternal, never-changing one.

We enter a new year and have bid "good bye" to the old. We don't know what changes will be in store for 2006, but change will occur. And St. John's will change. Yet, that isn't necessarily bad. In fact, it will be necessary. But we can be assured that the gospel message itself will be the same—Jesus came for you and you are loved, forgiven, and cherished by God. Alleluia!

Another year has come to an end. Yet, a new year presents itself with the budding opportunities of a fresh beginning. And as in Genesis 1:1, God continues to create...new beginnings.

*Pastor George*

#### Sunday Worship:

Traditional 9:00 am  
(1st & 3rd Sunday)

Contemporary 9:00 am  
(2nd & 4th Sunday)

Sunday church school 9:15 am

EHCC Sunday School 9:00 am

Sunday Adult Forum 10:30 am

#### Tuesday

Women's Bible Study 9:30 am

2nd Tuesday 7:00 pm

Council meeting

4th Tuesday 7:00 pm

Women's Eve. Bible Study

#### Wednesday

Confirmation class 6:00 pm

Bible Study 6:45 pm

#### Thursday

Choir 7:30 pm

#### Council Members:

Pat Cowan Pres.

Glenda Holsbo V.P.

Stephen Dietrich Treas.

Denise Lemler Sec.

Rod Cravens

Vicky Gay

Bill Martin

Patty Persiani

Financial Secretary—  
Mona Anderson

### St. John's Mission Statement:

St. John's is a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ, called by the Holy Spirit into a community of faith and love to be God's instruments of love and grace.

# St. John's Home Page



## Happy Birthday

2	Denise Lemler
9	Carole Nelson
11	Miria Stephens
12	Maxine Mattson
19	Louise Anway
20	John Stephens
24	Larry Gay
27	Samantha Pazo Shawn Cooley

If we are missing your birth, or anniversary date please let the office. Also, if you need a directory, please contact the church office, 444-1272.



We have 2 Thank you notes:

Alice Van Patten wishes everyone a Happy New Year. "My heart felt thanks for all your prayers, Get Well and Christmas cards and New Year wishes."

The Pazo family would like to "Thank everyone at St. John's for everything that they have done for our family during hurricane Katrina. This church is a God send and filled with such beautiful and caring people."



## Annual Congregational

### Meeting

Sunday, January, 22  
10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall  
Calling ALL members to attend this meeting. We will be discussing the budget and have an election for Council members. If you know someone that wants to be on council, contact a Council member by January 10 or leave a note in the office.

## **WELCOME**

Come and meet our new members at a Welcome Reception on January 8, after service. Our new members are:

Susan Shaddox and her sister, Judy Bacigalupi. Susan has been married to Tom for 36 1/2 years. They have 2 sons, Bob and Bill. She was an active member for 20 years at St John's. The last 2 years she's been at First Lutheran. She wishes once again to worship at St. John's and be an active member.

Judy Bacigalupi has 1 son, Michael. She grew up as a member of College Lutheran and Lemon Grove Lutheran churches.

**ALL COMMITTEE  
REPORTS TO BE  
INCLUDED IN THE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
ARE DUE IN THE  
OFFICE BY  
JANUARY 13, 2006.**



# January 2006

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:01 AM Sunday school - EHCC	2	3 9:30 AM Women's Bible study	4 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible Study	5 7:30 PM Choir	6 Epiphany	7
8 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:01 AM Sunday school - EHCC 9:15 AM Sunday chu... 10:30 AM Adult Forum 11:30 AM Potluck/g... 1:00 PM SHARE sign...	9	10 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Council meeting	11 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible Study	12 7:30 PM Choir	13 <b>Congregational Reports due</b>	14 11:00 AM WELCA Planning luncheon
15 9:00 AM Traditional Worship Service 9:01 AM Sunday school - EHCC 9:15 AM Sunday church school 10:30 AM Adult Forum	16 Martin Luther King holiday	17 9:30 AM Women's Bible study	18 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible Study	19 7:30 PM Choir	20 <b>Newsletter deadline</b>	21
22 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:01 AM Sunday school - EHCC 9:15 AM Sunday church school 10:30 AM CONGREGATIONAL MTG	23	24 9:30 AM Women's Bible study 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study	25 6:00 PM Confirmation class 6:45 PM Bible Study	26 7:30 PM Choir	27	28 6:30 AM SHARE pick up
29 9:00 AM Contemporary Worship Service 9:01 AM Sunday school - EHCC 9:15 AM Sunday church school 10:30 AM Adult Forum	30	31 9:30 AM Women's Bible study				

December 05

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		4	5	6	7	8
		11	12	13	14	15
		18	19	20	21	22
		25	26	27	28	29
		30	31			

February 06

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	
	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17
	19	20	21	22	23	24
	26	27	28			

# “Growing for Christ”

From the President's Desk

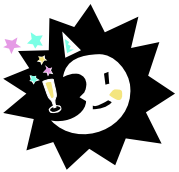
MERRY CHRISTMAS!! It's finally Christmas!! This year, Advent truly felt like a season of preparation and waiting for Christmas for us, as we steadfastly refused to celebrate the season until it was really Christmas. It's hard swimming against the tide of society. I was really reminded that we are in, but not of, this world. I'm sure by the time this newsletter reaches you, all signs of Christmas will be going down – the neighbors will no longer turn on their 40,000 lights, your friends will no longer be wearing beaded Santa's with flashing lights dangling from their earlobes, discarded Christmas trees will line the sidewalks for garbage pickup, and the malls and stores will be decked out for Valentine's Day.

Sorry! We're still in Christmas season and will be until Epiphany, and Brian and I will keep the spirit of Christmas alive until that day!

January will be the time for our annual congregational meeting, scheduled for Sunday, January 22, 2006, at 10:30 am, in the Fellowship Hall. We have to approve our budget for next year and approve the programs set in place. We need a few more council members to replace those who must retire and those who no longer can serve, so I'm asking each of you to pray on this and see if the Lord is calling you to serve in this capacity.

While I'm at it, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Patty Persiani for her long years of faithful service on the church council. Patty has finished her second term, having served for 6 consecutive years, and must step down at the end of this year. Thank you, Patty, for so much hard work, and please don't go very far! We really appreciate all you do for St. John's!

*Pat Cowan*



## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### January's Events

Jan. 1 Happy New Year

Jan. 6 Epiphany

Jan. 8 Welcome Reception for new members

Jan. 8 Epiphany Potluck and White Elephant Gift Exchange at 11:30 am

Jan. 22 Congregational Meeting at 10:30 am



Feb. 5 Super Bowl

Feb. 14 Valentine's Day

Feb. 26 Transfiguration Sunday

# Community Events



now through March, you can see Gray

Whales off our coastline. You can have a long distance view from Point Loma. Bring binoculars. Cabrillo State Park is open from 9 am– 5 pm daily and costing \$5 per car. It has a wonderful exhibit on Gray Whales migration. So check it out. Or you can get up close and personal on a Hornblower cruise. Call 686-8700 for more info on cruises.



January 2 Tournament of Roses Parade, Pasadena

Starting at 8 am  
Check your local listings for channel availability.



Rose Bowl Game  
January 4  
4:30 pm

Watch the Pac 10 & Big 12 compete for the trophy.  
ABC—TV



January 2  
Story time at  
Barnes & Noble

Book Store  
5500 Grossmont Center, La Mesa  
10 am & 7 pm



January 5-8  
San Diego Boat Show  
San Diego Convention

Center, 111 W. Harbor Drive  
Adults: \$9, children: \$4  
Thurs & Fri: 12– 8 pm  
Sat: 10 am—8 pm  
Sun: 11 am—6 pm



Now through January 14

Lego Train Exhibit  
Railroad Museum,  
Balboa Park  
Admission: adults \$5  
under 15 free



Now through January 17, you can ice skate at Horton Plaza, downtown San Diego. “Fantasy on Ice” will be open from 10 am—10 pm.  
Cost: \$10



Dog Agility Testing  
January 14 & 15

Rohr Park, 4548 Sweetwater Road, Chula Vista



Martin L. King Parade  
January 15  
10 am—2 pm

Parade starts at Tailgate Park (13th & Imperial) and winds through Park Blvd., J St., Seventh Ave. and back to Tailgate Park.



January 16  
11 am—3 pm

Museum of Man  
Family Day  
\$6—Adults  
\$3—6-17 years  
Make a hat, get your face painted and more.



Buick Invitational  
Open

January 23-29  
Torrey Pines Golf Course,  
La Jolla  
Tickets: \$15 - \$ 22  
1-858-964-5980



Winter Home Show  
Jan. 27-29  
Jan. 27-28—10 am-

7 pm  
Jan. 29—10 am-5 pm  
Free. Parking—\$8  
Del Mar Fairgrounds Bing  
Crosby & O'Brien Halls



Monster Jam &  
Monster Trucks  
Racing

Thursday, January 26  
7 pm  
Qualcomm Stadium  
Tickets \$10—\$25



The San Diego Gulls are back. Call 619-224-4171 to get prices, seating and dates for hockey games.

# “Growing for Christ”

## WELCA NEWS

WELCA has new officers for 2006. They are-

President: Laura Stephens

Treasurer: Jeanne Kenney

Secretary: Rene Brown

Tried all those new Year's Resolution, or just tired of all those New Year's Resolutions. Then try this one:

Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, wine in the other, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming...

Darn. What a ride!!!!

Where does moderation come into play? That's left up to you. God creates and he takes us through an interesting "ride" of our life, if we let him. So what have you got to loose, eat a little chocolate, drink a little wine, but keep the Lord divine.

Calling all women to attend the PLANNING MEETING on Saturday, January 14 at 11 am. We will be serving lunch, so come hungry. Don't forget to bring any ideas you might have for 2006.



Women unite under the Lord and come to the Fourth Tuesday Evening Bible Study. This month (1/24) the study will be on "Act Boldly with Kindness." They meet in the Library at 7 pm.



**Epiphany Potluck & White Elephant Gift Exchange**

Sunday, January 8 11:30 am

Bring a dish to share and a white elephant gift. A white elephant gift is something you have that you don't want. DON'T BUY ANYTHING. We will have an exchange by "stealing" each other's gifts. It'll be a lot of fun, so come on over to the Fellowship Hall and join in.

## January Worship Assistant's Schedule

	9:00 am	
<b>CANTOR</b>	Miria Stephens	<b>1 &amp; 15</b>
<b>READERS</b>		<b>SNACKS</b>
1/1	Susan Shaddox	Mona Anderson
1/8	Susan Shaddox	Kristine Hurtado-B.
1/15	Susan Shaddox	Glenda Holsbo
1/22	Charlie Meyer	Kim Stephens-Doll
1/29	Charlie Meyer	Maxine Mattson
<b>ASSISTANTS</b>		
1/1	Susan Shaddox	The Worship Assistant's Schedule is posted for the next 4 months, in back of the sanctuary.
1/8	Susan Shaddox	
1/15	Susan Shaddox	
1/27	Charlie Meyer	
1/29	Charlie Meyer	
<b>USHERS</b>		
1/1	Judy DeLong	<b>Please be prepared to light</b>
1/8	Judy DeLong	<b>and extinguish candles.</b>
1/15	Judy DeLong	
1/22	Rene Brown	
1/29	Rene Brown	
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Pat Cowan	



To all members that have keys to our building: outside entry, offices, or music room. Please contact the church office as we are updating our key log as to who has keys and why. Please do so by January 13. If you no longer need your key, please return it to the office. Thank you.

Volume 4 Issue 1



**ST. JOHN'S  
EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Pastor

Laura Stephens

Secretary

Katherine Stephens-Doll

Choir Director

Jeane Lawrie

Accompanist

Drew Peterson

Accompanist

Beth Stephens

& Corie Stephens

Youth

Cynthia Cooley

Sunday School Director