



The 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve candlelight service will be led by the youth of St. John's. They will bring the message of Jesus' birth through personal testimonies, bell ringing, carol singing and drama. This year the youth council was given the task of designating the recipient of this service's offering. After much discussion the council decided to dedicate all money collected to a cause they have been involved with for the past two years, World Vision's One Life Revolution. The slogan for the One Life Revolution is: You have one life. Do something.

The One Life Revolution premise is that one life (ours) can take one crisis (AIDS) in one country (Zambia) and turn back the onslaught of this terrible disease—one child, one family, one village at a time. The program reminds us that our one life can start a revolution in today's world that could save thousands of lives in tomorrow's world. We are reminded that we can be Jesus in the world now!

There are over 13 million children affected by HIV/AIDS in Zambia. Thirteen million, that's how many kids have lost one or both parents, not including the millions more who are living in a home where their lives are drastically affected by this deadly disease. These children struggle to survive after their parents die due to the AIDS epidemic. They do their best to keep their younger brothers and sisters dry, warm, and fed. The council has decided to use the Christmas Eve offering to construct a wood or brick two-room home to provide shelter, security, and a chance at new life for children like these. The cost of the home is \$3,200.

The youth thank the congregation of St. John's for their support of the youth mission work this past year, and they look forward to a continued mission partnership in 2006.

Grace and peace to you,

*Allen*

## A Christmas Eve Youth Reunion "Grads Informal Get-together"

Don't forget that following the 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service, there will be a "Christmas Eve Grads Informal Get-together". This is a St. John's Youth reunion for all former UMYF, Sunday School, and Workcamp friends.

The 5:00 p.m. service is going to be led by the current youth group. The GIG will be immediately following, in the Gathering Room, and all are welcome to bring family and friends, and to stay as long as you like. Refreshments will be served.

If you know or are in contact with any former St. John's youth, please let them know of this get-together. For more information, contact Jane Smith at [sfskier@aol.com](mailto:sfskier@aol.com).

## Kid's Scoop!

"Fear? Not!" was presented to the congregation last Sunday evening at 4:00 p.m. All of the children did a wonderful job memorizing their lines, learning all of the words to many songs, and cheerfully working their way through two long rehearsals. The accompanying pictures on this and other pages tell the story better than my words.



Many thanks to Carol Ish, Bev Kelman, Sandy Szabat, Jessica Sweet, and Maitte Girdner for their time and talent in helping with the rehearsals and programs. Many thanks to the parents for assisting with the multiple stage set-ups and take-downs that were necessary to accommodate other church activities. In particular, we want to thank Bob Bidal, Daniel Bidal, Jeremiah Dumas, Steve Sweet, Bill Pearson, Dixon Wolf, Jeff Szabat, Aaron Girdner, John Hervey, and Dave Dennison. Also, we want to thank Casey Ish for handling the sound system. The Children's Ministry Team would like to thank Rose Marie and Art Tauche for preparing the delicious soups for the dinner following the Christmas Pageant, and the adult Sunday school classes for the sandwiches and cookies.

Blessings,

*Janet*



## The Food Pantry Gives Thanks!

Seventy turkeys walked out the doors of St. John's on Thanksgiving week! Not on their own of course, but with seventy very happy families! A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all donors who made it possible for us to give so generously. I would like to extend an especially warm thanks to our Food Coordinator, Carolyn Vail for making sure there were enough turkeys at the last minute for all who came in need. As you might imagine, she encountered some very curious comments while carting out of Smiths with more than 50 turkeys. Good promotion of our ministry actually. And to the MONDAY CREW who conducted the distribution, including; Elaine Snell, Delia Sayle, Wilson Holman – it was a big crowd that day – HUGE THANKS TO YOU ALL!

Welcome to our new partners at ELDORADO COMMUNITY CHURCH! They contributed funds and turkeys at Thanksgiving and now have one volunteer working regularly on Thursdays. Welcome Sandra Sweers! They are number five in our interfaith partnership.

Another precious partner who deserves our deep gratitude is ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH which recently granted us \$1,000.00 from their Outreach and Mission Committee. They have a regular team of wonderful volunteers each month and they collect food regularly for the pantry.

KATIE SWARD'S first grade class at Eldorado Elementary donated time and hands to bag large quantities of beans and rice for us. Those are staples of our pantry, which we are so very thankful to receive at any time. Thank you Katie and kids!

A warm welcome, too, to Margaret Vail (Scott Vail's mother) who is volunteering regularly on Thursdays in the pantry!

As we celebrate the Advent season and the coming of our Lord, please remember to give thanks for the blessings that flow to and from our Food Pantry.

God's hand is very evident in this ministry,  
through the people who serve and are served.

Thanks Be To God!

Christmas Joy to All, Sandy Szabat



## End-of-Year Giving and Donations

As part of the Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act (KETRA) recently approved by the U.S. Congress, Section 301 permits cash charitable gifts up to 100% of your annual income. Congress wants to help charities who are assisting with hurricane relief, and this includes churches. These gifts must be in cash, and they must be made between Aug. 28 and Dec. 31, 2005.

Provisions of the Act also permit unlimited withdrawals from IRAs and certain other retirement assets. Provisions of the Act could impact other contributions, however, if your income is above \$146,000.

Normally, when a person over 59-1/2 withdraws funds from an IRA, the withdrawal is included in the IRA owner's taxable income. Under this KETRA allowance, after the withdrawal is received, the funds will be given in full to charity and the full amount will then be deductible. That means the IRA withdrawal is unlimited for most persons. A person can withdraw and give \$1,000 or \$10,000 as long as the total is beneath the \$146,000.

Two important rules to remember: Qualifying gifts must be in cash, and must be made by Dec. 31, 2005. There is a very small window of opportunity. If an IRA is being used, the owner must make the desired withdrawal amount this year and make the gift by the 31st of December.

Warning! Some IRA custodians take two to three weeks to process withdrawal requests! Therefore, a withdrawal request must be made in time for the distribution to be received and given to the church or other charity by December 31. Allow time for processing. A donor must have the cash available and made the contribution by December 31 to qualify.

In summary, a donor can receive a full deduction when an IRA withdrawal is made and then gifted to charity. The withdrawal increases taxable income, and the gift reduces taxable income. All public charities will generally qualify.

Be aware of this important note: **Donors should consult their CPA, tax preparer, or tax attorney to obtain all information relevant to a particular donor's situation.**

Additional info is available at [www.crescendo.com](http://www.crescendo.com).

## Sunday School Classes & Meeting Rooms

Covenant Class	Room #113
Explorers	Library
Good Shepherd	Room #103
Navigators	Room #115
Nomads	The Parlor
Open Class	Room #116
Sunday Seminar	Room #114
Woh-Tani Class	Gathering Room
The Word Class	Room #20
Junior High age class	Room #101
Senior High age class	Room #117
College Age	Assoc. Pastor's Study