

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist
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The Advocate

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MONTHLY ADVOCATE

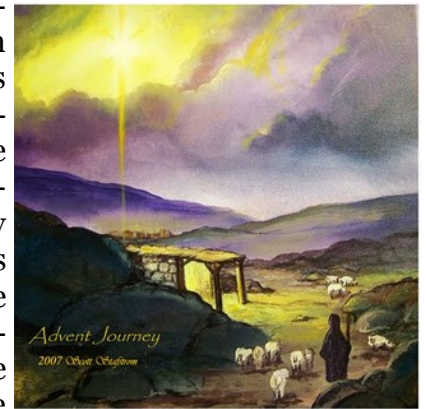
This newsletter is intended to update the members of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church on all of the things going on in our parish.

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From the Rector

The liturgical seasons of Advent and Christmas invite us on a journey; a journey whose destination is a manger. Like Simeon and Anna, who waited in the temple for God's Messiah to be revealed to them, we wait in anticipation through the season of preparation known as Advent. We busy ourselves with preparations for what is about to happen and if we are truthful, we are impatient in anticipation. As we make this journey together every year, we move deeper and deeper into God's mystery. There are no road maps to guide us on our way. We cannot put Jesus' manger in the GPS and arrive in time to celebrate his birth. The good news is that we have companions along the way who can show us the way and journey with us. We are invited to be still so we can listen to the still small voice of God active in our world today. The church invites us to be hopeful in anticipation of what can be, never losing sight of our vision of God's kingdom on this earth as it is in heaven.



Like the shepherds and wise men of old, we travel to Bethlehem to behold God's love incarnate. We discover in Jesus that the One we seek has found us. All we need to do is stay on the journey. Stay on the journey toward the mystery of a God who loves us enough to send His only begotten Son. There at the manger, we pause to worship and adore the One who came to show us the power of God's love. Having been awed by the mystery of God we travel away from the manger back to the rhythm of daily life. Refreshed, renewed and filled with the spirit we are bearers of God's good news. *For God so loved the world that He sent his only begotten Son into the world that all who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

May God bless you during this holy season,
David+



Advent is a season of preparation. We prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of our Lord and we remind ourselves to be ready for the time when Jesus will come again. Each Sunday in Advent we light the Advent Wreath as a reminder of the coming of Light into the world. As the days grow shorter during December, the light of Christ grows brighter.

WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT

During the season of Advent we provide an opportunity to take time in the middle of a busy week to be still and know God. At 10 o'clock we offer Holy Eucharist Rite II with prayers for healing in the chapel. During this service we remember, by name, those persons and institutions on our parish prayer list.

At 7 PM a candlelit Evening Prayer service is read with music. A meditation focused on "Waiting" will be provided by our parish clergy. Come, share with others this opportunity to reflect on the meaning of the holy season we prepare to celebrate.

ST. NICHOLAS MAKES HIS ANNUAL APPEARANCE

On Sunday, December 4th, St. Nicholas of Myria will visit with us at St. John. St. Nicholas will share his story with our children and give each a reminder of his visit. In the generous spirit of St. Nicholas, each of us is reminded to return the green St. Nicholas bag you picked up in January. The pouch filled with quarters will provide for the needs of a family or two in our community during this holy season.

Following the service, everyone is invited to the Parish Hall to decorate the Chrismon tree. Lunch will be provided after the tree decorating thanks to the Associate Vestry.

Chrismons are symbols for Christ. They are white and gold in color to symbolize purity and kingship. Chrismons are placed on an ever-green tree to remind us of God's continual salvation story.



SUNDAY FORUM

The Sunday Forum in December will continue our discussion of "Credo". What do we believe in? In particular, what does the Nicene Creed say about our beliefs as Christians? Join the Rev. Joe Seville on Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M. for a lively discussion.

INSTALLATION OF VESTRIES

The Incorporated and Associate Vestries will be installed on Sunday, December 11 at the 10 o'clock service. We are grateful to those persons who have accepted the call to be leaders of our parish in the coming year. We pray that God will continue to bless them as we live into our mission as God's people. The following persons were elected at the Annual Parish Meeting, November 13, 2011.

The Incorporated Vestry:

Susan M. Ariail
 Anne D. Moul
 William E. Rosevear
 Brian Wood
 Jolene Smith-Kingston (fill unexpired term)

The Associate Vestry:

Kristine M. Potter
 Mark B. Lutz
 James F. Hicks

Nominating Committee:

Brian Hershner
 Marlene Corcoran
 Suzanne Smith
 Christine Kahley

Diocesan Convention Delegates:

Milton & Susan Leake
 Bill & Susan Ariail
 Wanda Linebaugh
 Frances Allison

The York Ecumenical Choral Society

Presents

Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18, 2011

4:00 p.m. at St. John

The Choral Society was founded by Dr. Gene Paul Strayer thirteen years ago to promote fine choral works from the Protestant, Western Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions. The service is patterned after the Festival of Lessons and Carols started by Kings College in England.

The Choral Society is directed by our own Rodney Barnett; organist for the Festival will be Todd Davis, Director of Music at Christ Lutheran Church. Parking is available in the lot across the street from the church. There is no charge for admission; a freewill offering will be taken. For more information please contact Rodney Barnett at 244-5020 or rjbjsb@verizon.net



The Book Club will meet Monday, December 13 at 7 P.M. in the home of Suki Campbell. The book selection for December is The All of It by Jeanette Haien. Those interested in the book club are invited to join the group for a lively discussion. For more information contact Suki Campbell at sukic1@comcast.net.



Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24

- 4:30 P.M. Nativity Pageant and Family Eucharist
 10:30 P.M. Music of Christmas provided by the St. John Choirs
 11:00 P.M. Festival Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day Sunday, December 25

- 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Rite I with music

Wednesday, December 28

- 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

First Sunday of Christmas –January 1

- Holy Name of Jesus
 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist Rite II.

Christmas Eve 4:30 P.M.

On Christmas Eve at 4:30 PM our children will tell the Christmas story in the context of a family oriented celebration of the Eucharist. Thanks to those who have worked so diligently to prepare for the pageant.

Festival Choral Eucharist at 11:00 P.M.

Festival Choral Eucharist at 11 PM begins with a musical prelude at 10:30 PM. This festival service is the highlight of our Christmas celebration. This service does involve the limited use of hyper allergic incense. Incense is a reminder that we use all of our senses when we worship and symbolizes the lifting up of our prayers to God.

HELP WANTED

BREAKFAST & COFFEE HOUR HOSPITALITY

A signup sheet on the bulletin board at the front of the church invites you to share the gift of hospitality. Breakfast is served from 8:15 to 8:45 in the Parish Hall. The Associate Vestry will reimburse those who serve for any incurred costs. We hope that those attending the early service and those attending the Sunday school program will take advantage of this opportunity.

After the 10 o'clock service Coffee and Conversation provides an opportunity for us to catch up with one another after our busy week. Coffee and cookies are provided; all we need is someone to put them out and clean up. Come join us after church for conversation and Bishop's Blend Coffee. There is one Sunday in December when we need parishioners to share the gift of hospitality. Please check your calendar and sign the sheet on the bulletin board at the front of the church. January and February will be posted soon.

Thanks to all who share the gift of hospitality by serving as our hosts and hostesses.

INVITE A NEIGHBOR OR FRIEND

Advent and Christmas are times when people who do not attend a church or who do not attend services on a regular basis think about coming to church. Studies show that people will come to church if someone invites them and makes them feel welcome. Why not share that which gives meaning to your life? Invite a friend or neighbor to worship with you during this holy time of the year at St. John.

MITTEN TREE

and

GIFTS FOR CHILDREN



We have a long standing tradition at St. John of filling a Christmas tree with mittens, caps, scarves and gloves. We also bring wrapped gifts, marked for a boy or girl, and place them around the angel lectern in the church during the Advent season. These items are given to Presley Ridge for distribution to children in need. The date for the final pickup is **December 13th** so the gifts can be distributed to brighten a child's Christmas.



NEWS & NOTES

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTION INFORMATION

The Internal Revenue Service requires us to close the record of 2011 contributions on December 31st at the end of the business day. Please be aware of this requirement if you wish credit for any contribution to the church in this tax year.

Church Offering envelopes will be available some time in December. Please check the Sunday bulletin for more information.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The celebration of my fifteenth anniversary as Rector of St. John continues to touch me more than words can express. The table laden with so much food shared generously by the wonderful cooks of St. John was a sight to behold. Thanks to all who participated in a gift that I look forward to enjoying on the first day of the baseball season. I have not had the privilege of attending opening day for the Atlanta Braves, something I hoped to do some day. You have provided me that opportunity and I thank you. Spending time in the spring in Atlanta is something Elaine and I will both enjoy. I am deeply grateful realizing how truly privileged I am to be among you and to serve as the Rector of St. John. David+

ANGELS AMONG US

Every Sunday for over 20 years, parents at St. John have taken our youngest children to Mr. Roger and Miss Jackie to be cared for and loved. The Langs provide careful, dependable, loving care for our children while parents attend Sunday forums and worship services. Some of our older children return now just to visit with Jackie and Roger. We are grateful for their ministry to us and to our children. Jackie could not be pried out of the nursery on a Sunday to be publicly recognized – I want everyone to know how important they are to our parish, our children and their parents.

THANK YOU JACKIE AND ROGER!!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Many thanks to those who helped with the church yard cleanup November 19th. They are Brian Hershner, Rich Kopecki, Tom Warman, John Schmidt, Ruth Huff, Suzanne Smith, Bill Rosevear, Tom Russell, Dale Herman and David Lovelace.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thanks to the children in Anne Strayer and Sarah Reeder's Sunday School class who cleaned toys from the nursery as a project. Good Job, Kids!!!