



# Saint John's

## Inter **C**hange

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The parish newsletter for the people of God called to the Christian community of Saint John's Episcopal Church, Quarrier at Leon Sullivan Way, Charleston, West Virginia

**Our Mission:** We reach out to the world in Christ's name in the hope that all might find a home in God's healing love.

### SUNDAYS DECEMBER 9 AND 16, 2007 SECOND AND THIRD SUNDAYS OF ADVENT

- 8:00 a.m.     **Holy Eucharist**
- 8:45 a.m.     **Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library**
- 9:30 a.m.     **Adult Education Formation**  
**Adult Forum, Dec. 9,** The Rev. David Hackett will address "The Frustrations of Advent"; **Dec. 16,** There will be a panel discussion of the recent merger of four local Episcopal churches: Good Shepherd, St. Luke's, All Saints and St. James into a single parish called St. Christopher's, Room 109.  
**On Death and Dying, Dec. 9,**"Plan for End of Life Concerns," led By Larry L. Rowe, Room 209
- 10:10 a.m.    **Parents' Fellowship, Room 208**
- 10:10 a.m.    **Chapel for Older Children, Room 225**
- 10:30 a.m.    **Classes for toddlers through Grade 5:** Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 4 to 8 years old, Room 299; St. John's Eagles, 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grades, Room 221.
- 10:30 a.m.    **Holy Eucharist, with choir**
- 11:30 a.m.    **Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall**

### Take Time Out for Taize

There will be two opportunities to attend Taize services at St. John's during December. The first will be at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 9, as this service is offered the second Sunday of each month. A special program will take place on New Year's Eve at 10 p.m. in the chapel. Taize Prayer is a beautiful, peaceful, meditative service with readings, music and prayers interspersed with silence. Whether you attend Taize regularly or have yet to do so, you will find it a meaningful way to experience Advent and look with renewed hope to the coming new year.

## **Holiday Program**

Sweet Adelines will be guest performers at the monthly luncheon meeting of Women in Faith, Fun and Fellowship on Dec. 13 at 11:30 a.m. in the Molly Warwick Room and Room 209.

Luncheon will be served before the program and a short business meeting will follow. Please bring a gift of gloves, mittens and/or children's hats to be given to a charity for Christmas.

Lunch reservations, for which donations will be accepted, are to be made with the church office, 346-0359.

The Shawl Ministry will follow for all who enjoy handiwork.

## **Rollins Accepts Call**

The Rev. Wayne Rollins has accepted a call to become Rector of St. Peter's Church in Portland, Maine. All of us at St. John's rejoice with and for Wayne and wish him Godspeed to his next cure.

Welcome to The Rev. Denise Giardina

During the Advent season you will be seeing a new face at St. John's altar. Bishop Klusmeyer has reinstated Denise Giardina to the Sacred Order of Deacons. A graduate of Virginia Theological Seminary and ordained Deacon several years ago, Deacon Giardina voluntarily renounced her Holy Orders. She has felt the urging of the Holy Spirit to renew her Diaconal ministry and after conversations with the Interim Rector, the Bishop, and with the endorsement of St. John's Vestry, was reinstated by the Bishop as Deacon of the Church.

The Catechism states, "The ministry of a deacon is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as a servant of those in need; and to assist bishops and priests in the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the sacraments." While Denise will exercise her servanthood ministry primarily through her vocation as an educator and writer, she will exercise her liturgical ministry here at St. John's. We welcome The Rev. Denise Giardina to the staff of the parish.

## **What Do You Know About the Nicene Creed?**

Every Sunday we recite the Nicene Creed, a series of statements about our faith. Do you ever wonder how it was developed and what some of those statements mean? If so, please join us for a 5-week course offered on Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:15a.m. in Room 209 beginning Jan. 6. Each week we'll explore a different aspect of this creed through lecture, reflection and conversation. The schedule is:

Jan. 6: How did it come about, the history of the Nicene Creed? Jan. 13: The Creator; Jan. 20: The Christ; Jan. 27: The Spirit; and Feb. 3: Baptism and the holy catholic church. Please feel free to attend as your schedule permits. Questions may be referred to Beth Marquart, 382-3109.

## **Meet Your Newest Vestry Members**

Four parishioners were elected to service on the Vestry at the annual parish meeting held Nov. 25. Elected to three-year terms were John Canfield, Brian Hamra, Beth Marquart and Parker Smith. Bob Miller was chosen to complete a two-year term.

A member of St. John's since 1994, John Canfield has been serving as a greeter on Sunday mornings and he and his wife, Dianna, were members of the original POINTS group for parents in the 1990's. As a parent of two sons, both acolytes, he is particularly interested in our efforts involving the youth of the parish.

Brian Hamra, an eight-year member of St. John's, can often be found assisting with food service for various events including Madrigal and church picnics, serving as an usher and on the property committee. He hopes we can make Manna Meal even more prominent than it is now.

Among Beth Marquart's involvements are Parish Life Ministry, Vestry 2001-2004, Spokes for Folks chair, EFM mentor, graduate of Equipping the Saints program, a member of St. Ambrose Choir and a Taize musician.

Parker has been a member of St. John's for 17 years, and has served on the vestry and is a lectionary mentor

Bob Miller, a past Vestry member, serves as an usher and on the Outreach Committee and has been active in Habitat for Humanity projects.

Elected as delegates to the Diocesan Convention were Brooks McCabe, Beth Hamrick and Michelle Walker, with Wanda Dettinger as alternate.

## **Death and Dying Series to Conclude**

A session on "Planning for End-of-Life Concerns" will be led by Larry L. Rowe on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 209 to assist in making difficult decisions.

*David Ramkey New CFO for Diocese*

St. John's David Ramkey has accepted the position of Chief Financial Officer of the Diocese of West Virginia. David, a CPA, is currently our assistant treasurer. We congratulate him and wish him well in this ministry.

## **Theology Seminar**

St. John's former rector, the Rev. Dr. Karl Ruttan, will conduct a seminar, "Theology of Formation," Dec. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the West Virginia Institute for Spirituality, 1601 Virginia St. E.

What Does It Mean to be Human, based on Adrian van Kaam's Science of Formation, will explore the mystery of human nature with the infinite possibilities and challenges of human existence. An offering of \$50 will include lunch. To register, phone 345-0926. Dr. Ruttan earned his Ph.D. degree in spiritual formation at Duquesne University and is dean of the Anglican Academy for the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio.

## **Interchange Deadlines**

The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Dec. 23 and 30. Please submit items to:

[julkemp@verizon.net](mailto:julkemp@verizon.net)

or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) by Tuesday, Dec. 11, at 4 p.m.

One of the characteristics of our faith community at St. John's that most appeals to me is that of inclusion: young and old, gay and straight, those whole in spirit and those broken in spirit. All are welcome here. I'd like to offer, for your consideration, an additional category: those with e-mail and those without e-mail.

I admit that I was slow to embrace e-mail as a convenient mode of communication. I was so certain that all handwritten letters would disappear down some black hole once I succumbed to the instant gratification of contact with friends and farflung family members. Happily, I have been able to maintain a foothold in both the Old and New Worlds!

Still, I did come to recognize in my B.E.(Before E-mail) era the sense of being "out of the loop" and not a part of "the club" when I attended professional meetings. I squirmed as others jotted down e-mail addresses with colleagues in the same way we used to exchange business cards. I definitely did not feel included.

It's been most helpful receiving electronically conveyed news through our church office, particularly when parishioners are ill or have died. Yet I am aware that there are numerous parishioners who do not subscribe. I'm wondering if perhaps the Pastoral Care Committee could set up a phone chain for those who choose to participate, so that we can all be informed about important events in the life of our community, at the same time.

Someone else may have a better idea. If so, please share your thoughts. Inclusion -- we represent that vision best in the broader community when we can all work together.