



# Saint John's

## Inter Change

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## Schedule for Worship

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 28, 2008 AND SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2009**

**FIRST AND SECOND SUNDAYS AFTER CHRISTMAS**

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist  
8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library  
9:00 a.m. Rite 13, twice a month, Room 226  
9:30 a.m. Nursery open, Room 297  
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, Dec. 28, There will be no Adult Forum;  
Jan. 4, Sister Peggy O'Neill, a Sister of Charity of St.  
Elizabeth's who has been serving in Suchitoto, El Salvador,  
for 20 years, will discuss her work there. She is the aunt of  
parishioner Janet Robertson, Room 109.  
10:30 a.m. Classes for toddlers through Grade 5: Toddlers,  
Room 298; Godly Play, 1<sup>st</sup> to 2nd grades, Room 299;  
St. John's Eagles, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Room 221.  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir, Dec. 28, Bishop Michie  
Klusmeyer to visit  
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall



### Christmas Services at St. John's

- ❖ On Sunday, Dec. 21, there will be a special Taize service at 5 p.m.
- ❖ Christmas Eve will begin with the Christingle family service with Eucharist at 4:30 p.m., and a festive Choral Eucharist will be held at 11 p.m., with music beginning at 10:30 p.m.
- ❖ Another Holy Eucharist will be offered Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m.
- ❖ Bishop Michie Klusmeyer will join us on Sunday, Dec. 28.
- ❖ A new Epiphany Candlelight Service is planned for Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2009, at 7 p.m.

### Church Office Takes a Holiday

The church office will be closed from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. There will not be a Wednesday 12:10 p.m. Eucharist on Dec. 24. That service will resume on Dec. 31.



## An Oasis of Beauty in Our Fast-Paced World

*By the Rev. Susan J. Latimer*

### *Dear Saints of John,*

As we prepare for the Christmas celebrations, and my first Christmas with you, I give thanks for the many blessings this community of faith offers. An image remains in my mind from the first Saturday of Advent that I want to share with you.

A small group gathered in Hunter Hall for an afternoon retreat with the labyrinth. The beige canvas was rolled out, filling the floor. The intricate pattern – contained in a circle 36 feet in diameter, painted in purple, stood out. It was snowing outside – a soft, gentle snow that could be seen through the windows. Candles were lit – and the Manna Meal Christmas trees on the stage were lighted. Medieval music wafted through the air. Several people were walking the winding path. The

door opened, and a very tall man came inside. He stood for a moment, taking in the scene. I explained to him that we were having a retreat, and asked if he would like to walk the path with us. From his response, I guessed that he probably had some major emotional or psychological issues. I let him know that he was welcome to stay, and I sat back down. He stood for a long, long while, drinking in the scene. It was a Holy time.

I don't know for sure, but I think that this man stayed as long as he did because he sensed the holiness and beauty of the room – holy because of the thousands of people who have come to feed and be fed in that space over the years; holy because of the ancient path now spread on the same floor, and the intention of the walkers to connect with God; beautiful because of the labyrinth itself, the candles, the lighted trees, the people who walked, expressing their faith in the dance. That day, Hunter Hall was a place of refuge – at breakfast and lunch, as it always is, noisy and chaotic and wonderful, with people feeding and being fed – and in the afternoon it was a refuge of a different sort – an oasis of beauty in our fast-paced world.

St. John's is an oasis, a refuge of nurture and beauty in our city – for those who lack the basic necessities of life, and for all of us who have those necessities, but whose needs are less obvious. All of us need community. All of us need beauty and times of reflection and connection to God. I invite you to celebrate the Christmas season with us by participating in our worship services. The purpose of the Church is to nurture and empower people to live out their baptismal ministries in the world. Come and be nourished this Christmas! Christmas Eve services are the Family Service with the Christingle at 4:30 p.m. and the Festive Choral Eucharist at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day we have a spoken Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec, 28, we will have our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. W. Michie Klusmeyer, as celebrant and preacher at both services. Jan. 4 we welcome Sister Peggy O'Neill from El Salvador as guest preacher. We finish our celebrations of the season with a candlelight Epiphany service on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. May our worship together strengthen and nourish us for our work in the world. Whether you celebrate here or are traveling to be with family, I wish you all a Blessed Christmas!

*In Christ,  
Susan+*

## An Introduction to Our New Associate Rector

By the Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson



*Dear St John's Parish,*

What a wild and wonderful Advent season it has been for me - the perfect time of year to reflect on new beginnings and ponder how God comes in surprising ways. I am thankful to Susan for her invitation to come to St John's and share Christ's ministry with you, serving as your associate rector. Since I have met only a few of you, allow me to introduce myself.

I was called to be the rector of St Philip's Church in Wiscasset, Maine, for almost six years. They are a small, active congregation of dedicated folks. As their rector I have done a little bit of everything with worship, preaching, pastoral ministry and stewardship issues taking much of my attention. I am a graduate of Seabury-Western Theological Seminary (Episcopal). After seminary I served a congregation in Michigan where I was a founder of OASIS-Michigan, a ministry with the LGBT community. My professional work for 10 years prior to seminary was in the fields of substance abuse treatment and volunteer administration. I love being part of positive changes, new initiatives, and enjoy "equipping the saints for ministry." I enjoy camping, hiking, canoeing, music and the arts, and I'm a swimmer. Also, I hope to continue learning African drumming which I began a year ago.

My newest adventure in ministry is motherhood. My daughter Azalech (pronounced AH-ZAH-LECH) is two-and-a-half years old. She was born in the southern region of Ethiopia. My brother Peter traveled with me to meet her and bring her home in June -just six months ago. She is healthy, growing, bright and, shall we say, "all personality." She is starting to understand that we are going to have a new house and a new church - "closer Susan" - but I don't think she knows this means saying good-bye to our parish and friends here! More adventures ahead as we continue this transition.

My recent house-hunting trip was successful; I am in contract on a home in the East End. And we will be arriving Charleston the week of Jan. 12. I am excited about coming to St John's, working with Susan, and being part of your re-forming ministries for and with children and youth. I believe God has led me to you, as a calling for me to integrate my adventures in parenting with my pastoral leadership and ordained ministry. And I trust it will continue to be a wild and wonderful experience!

I have yet to find the right child-care situation for Azalech so if you have any recommendations, particularly for licensed home day-care, I would love to hear them. I will also be looking to arrange a Sunday child-care person who will bring Azalech to church - more ideas welcome! I can be reached at [alovejoy@wiscasset.net](mailto:alovejoy@wiscasset.net).

I am praying for St John's and appreciate your prayers for us during this transition. I look forward to meeting you next month!

*Faithfully,  
Ann Lovejoy Johnson*

## A Change Towards a More Inclusive Service

*Dear Saints of John,*

With a little push, we, the ushers are trying to include the congregation, more in the presentation of the oblations (bread and wine) each Sunday.

If you have noticed the small change in our current routine, we now follow the crucifer up the center isle, present the gifts, reverence the alter, turn right and exit through the organ room.

The other change we are trying to make is to include you, the congregation more in this part of the service. If you get a tap on the shoulder from an usher, please don't be shy in either telling us thanks, or no thanks. If you don't feel comfortable, you do not owe us an explanation, just a no thank you. If you do feel comfortable, please come to the back row with us either at the end of the Peace or after we have finished collecting the offering. If you feel especially brave please see the ushers on the back row as you come in. We have a different crew working each Sunday of the month, so just let one of us know.

We would welcome you in your gift of time, to this part of our service.

Susan has agreed to speak with the families with children and has given them the honor on the first Sunday of each month.

Please consider this as you join us each service.

*Yours in Christ,  
Bob Swartz*



## Acolyte Color Key Explained

Ever wonder why the ribbons holding our acolyte crosses are different colors?

The various colors used denote the current year of service for each acolyte. At present, we have acolytes wearing white, black, red and purple ribbons. Those wearing white are in their first year of service. The black ribbons signal a second year; red, a third year; and purple, a fourth year. Other colors available are green (fifth year), blue (sixth year), brown (seventh year) and orange (eighth year).

High school seniors receive a special recognition. When an acolyte enters his or her senior year, they are presented with a silver cross that they wear throughout that year and keep after graduation -- St. John's way of saying thanks for faithful service.

On Sunday, Jan. 11, all St. John's acolytes will be recognized by the congregation and will formally receive their colors for the year. What a wonderful rainbow of service they represent to us!

## **SAY THANK YOU TO A SOLDIER**

There's an easy but important way to convey our thanks to wounded soldiers for their service to our country. Cards and letters would be most appreciated by these men and women.

Correspondence may be addressed as follows:

**To A Recovering Soldier  
C/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
6900 Georgia Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20307-5001**

## **WIFFF Sponsorship of Brass Band a Success**

*By Wanda Dettinger*

I would like to thank all members of Women In Faith, Fun and Fellowship and Parish Life who helped make the production of the Mountain State Brass Band on Dec. 14 a big success. The performance paid for the band and a goodly amount for Manna Meal. Special thanks go to Michelle Walker, Forrest Akers, Archie and Sandy Morris, Martha Cole, Brenda Dearien and Ben Dettinger.

The next meeting of WIFFF will be Jan. 8 in the Molly Warwick Room and Room 209. A luncheon will be served at 11:30 a.m. and a program to follow, which will be "A Trip to France, Germany, and the Czech Republic" by Wanda Dettinger. All women of the church are invited. The Shawl Ministry will follow a short business meeting.

## **Former Rector to Celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Dr. William M. Kirkland, who served St. John's as Rector from 1963 to 1972, will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Dec. 27. His daughters, Jennifer Kirkland and Laurie Kirkland Ziegler, wish to surprise him with cards and letters from people who have meant the most to him over the years.

No party is planned, but those who remember Dr. Kirkland are urged to address their cards to: Dr. William M. Kirkland, c/o Jennifer Kirkland, 303 College Circle, Staunton, VA 24401. The daughters will bring the messages with them when they visit West Virginia.

## **New Book Discussion Group Forming**

Join the Rector for a new book-discussion group beginning in January. This group will read and discuss *The Wisdom Jesus, Transforming Heart and Mind - a New Perspective on Christ and His Message* by Cynthia Bourgeault.

We will share our own spiritual journeys as we travel through the book together on Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Molly Warwick Room on the second floor. Dates are Jan. 14, 21 and 28 and Feb. 4 and 11. The book is available through Amazon.com or you can order it locally. All are welcome. Questions? Contact The Rev. Susan J. Latimer.

## **Please Remember Shirley Studivon**

Shirley Studivon, a former parishioner, is now living at Elder Care in Ripley. Some of you will remember Shirley for the many creative things she has done for St. John's and the local arts community. Shirley made all the original Madrigal costumes and helped with the needlepoint for the altar kneelers. She also served as costumer for a number of Kanawha Players shows over the years.

Shirley's husband, David, a former sexton for St. John's, is currently a patient at St. Francis Hospital. We know that Shirley would appreciate receiving cards from her St. John's friends. The address is 107 Miller Drive, Ripley, WV 25271.

## **Sister of Charity to Visit Jan. 4**

On Sunday, Jan. 4 we will be honored to have Sister Peggy O'Neill, SC as our guest preacher. She is a Sister of Charity of St. Elizabeth and has been serving in the town of Suchitoto, El Salvador for 20 years, doing a variety of things related to war, post-war social development and now Centro Arte para la Paz.

She holds an M.A. degree in theology from Marquette University and a Ph.D. in religious education from New York University. She is also the aunt of parishioner Janet Robertson.

Sister Peggy will be available between the services and at coffee hour for conversation about her work.

Outreach is considering the possibility of a St. John's mission trip that would coordinate with her work.

This letter was in reference to the Prayer Chapel on the left side of the church.

March 20, 1978

Mr. Alex Doumany  
941 Matthews Avenue  
Charleston, West Virginia 25302

Dear Mr. Doumany:

Once in a great while, an offering to God can be described as sublime. The altar table in memory of Amelia Zegeer is such a gift. You can see its beauty from a distance -- but its quality becomes clearer as you approach, until at the end, you discover this lovely table was made by hand. And every time thereafter, any worshiper at St. John's will surely remember his first sense of awe at the final discovery. In the decades to come, many people will linger a moment at the table, and think of the dedication and love that made it.

Therefore, on behalf of the parish, the Vestry has directed me to send you this letter of deepest gratitude for your work in making the table.

Yours in Christ,

*H.L. Snyder*  
Recorder of the Parish

### **Want to Write for Interchange?**

Before this newsletter was redesigned, a regular feature was a column called Cross-Examination, in which parishioners were invited to share their viewpoints on subjects of interest to all readers. We would like to reinstate this feature and invite those wishing to so express themselves to submit articles of approximately 300 to 350 words to our rector, the Rev. Susan J. Latimer. Please include your name and a daytime telephone number. We may rename this feature and those suggestions also are welcome.

### **Our Next Issue**

Please be aware that the next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Jan. 11 and 18, 2009. Because of the holidays, the deadline to accept material for this issue will be **Monday, Jan. 5, at 2 p.m.** Items and photos may be submitted to [julkemp@verizon.net](mailto:julkemp@verizon.net) or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org).

### **Join in the Fun of Creating Christingles**

Rite 13 and J2A will be assembling Christingles for the Christingle Christmas Eve Service on Tuesday, Dec. 23, from 4 to 6 p.m. in Room 209. We also invite anyone else, especially other children, who would like to join in the fun of creating the Christingles. Pizza will be provided. If you have any questions, please contact Dianna Canfield at 346-7101 or at [johnanddianna@hotmail.com](mailto:johnanddianna@hotmail.com).

# St. John's Episcopal Church, Charleston, WV

Established 1837 ~ Present Building consecrated 1901 ~ A Jubilee Center since 1985  
 Please address correspondence to: 1105 Quarrier Street, Charleston, WV 25301-2493  
 Telephone 304/346-0359 / Facsimile 304/342-2810 Website: www.stjohnswv.org

The Rev. Susan J. Latimer Rector	David Vick '10 Junior Warden	Michelle Walker Parish life	Warren Upton Chancellor
The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson Associate Rector	Ellen Archibald '09 Treasurer	Donna Hamra / Mary Fitzgerald	Carter Blundon Altar Guild
The Rev. Denise Giardina Deacon	Dan McDonald '10 Clerk	Outreach	Betty Jo Lloyd Worship Rota
Brenda Maurice Vanderford Organist/ Choirmaster	Joe Bolyard '09 John Canfield, '11 Cheryl Clements '10	Bob Cochran Stewardship	Janet Morris Archives
David Morton Assisting Organist/ Choirmaster	Page Hamrick '09 Brian Hamra '11 Beth Marquart '11	Joe Mullins Property	Robin Lester SAGA
Brenda Dearien Parish Administrator	Bob Miller '10 Parker Smith '11	Diane Hendricks Confirmation	Martha Cole Registrar
Bob Westmoreland Verger	David Ramkey Assistant treasurer	Marion Perry Adult Forum	Ann Garcelon The Back Door Thrift Shop
Dan Williams Custodian	David Ramkey / Becky Burns Finance	Phyllis Atwood Pastoral Care	
<u>Vestry</u>		Dianna Canfield / Carrie Swing Acolytes	Julianne Kemp & Melora Cann Interchange co- editors
Becky Burns '09 Senior Warden	Maggie McCabe Evangelism/ new member	Bob Swartz / Bob Miller	

## Still Time to Order Christmas Flowers

The deadline is Monday, Dec. 22, to order flowers in memory or in honor of someone this Christmas. To do so, please notify our parish administrator, Brenda Dearien. Cost is \$25 for which a check may be sent to: St. John's Episcopal Church, 1105 Quarrier St., Charleston, WV, 25301, or placed in the alms basin during Sunday services. Be sure to include your name and how you would like the gift to read in the church bulletin. The flowers will decorate the church during Christmas and New Year's.



## *New Year's Eve Party for All Ages*

Good Night 2008, a traditional community celebration on New Year's Eve featuring a variety of musical programs, is presented by the Charleston Community Music Assn.

St. John's again will be one of 12 downtown locations participating in this event. At 6 and 8 p.m. there will be performances by the Almost Heaven Chorus of Sweet Adelines, four-part harmony for women singers. At 7 and 9 p.m., the Daugherty Family Singers - George, Sallie, Tom and Kiera Daugherty with Buddy Griffin - will present "A Salute to Patriotism."

Other venues include Baptist Temple, Capitol Theatre, Charleston Civic Center Little Theatre, Christ Church United Methodist, First Presbyterian Church, Kanawha United Presbyterian Church, Riverview Presbyterian Church, Sacred Heart Catholic Church, St. Mark's United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. KRT trolleys will offer transportation between the various sites.

All events and rides are free and open to the public.