



Saint John's *Inter* Change

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SCHEDULE FOR WORSHIP

SUNDAYS, DECEMBER 5, 12, 19, AND 26, 2010
*Second, Third and Fourth Sundays of Advent
And First Sunday after Christmas*

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
- 9:00 a.m. Nursery open for infants to age 5, Room 297
- 9:15 a.m. Sunday School classes for youth (see page 4)
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, (please see program listings below), Room 109
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir

DECEMBER ADULT FORUM SPEAKERS

Dec. 5 - **Sky Kershner**, Director of Kanawha Pastoral Counseling, will discuss "Hoarding, Stewardship, and Stuff."

Dec. 12 - **Our Lady of Guadalupe - Symbol of Hope to the poor and oppressed:** Tom Brown and The Rev. Susan J. Latimer will lead an exploration of the cultural significance of the 16th century Marian apparitions (Our Lady of Guadalupe). We will be especially interested in contemporary interpretations as they concern an activist church.

Dec. 19 - **Byron Harris**, Consumer Advocate for the WV Public Service Commission will speak, topic to be announced.

Please Note: There will be no Adult Forum programs on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2 due to the holidays. The Forum will resume on Jan. 9, 2011.

Reminder

On Sunday, Dec. 5, come to our wonderful Christmas celebration for all ages: we will have a surprise visit from St. Nicholas including a special photo opportunity with donations to AFEDJ!



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES

- Dec. 5, 10:30 a.m.
A visit from St. Nicholas
- Dec. 19, 10:30 a.m.
Advent Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 24, 4:30 p.m.
Family Christingle Service especially for children and the young-at-heart
- Dec. 24, 11 p.m.
Festive Choral Christmas Eucharist (music begins at 10:30 p.m.)
- Dec. 25, 10:30 a.m.
Christmas Day Eucharist
- Dec. 26, 8 and 10:30 a.m.
The First Sunday after Christmas
- Dec. 31, 10 p.m. - Taize service

The Clergy and Staff of St. John's wish all the Saints of John a Blessed Christmas Season!

GOOD NIGHT TO ALL

Charleston's own New Year's Eve party, Good Night 2010, delivers entertainment for all ages.

St. John's again will participate as one of 12 downtown locations offering a total of 31 different programs. At St. John's at 6 and 8 p.m., Bill and Susan Bryan will perform music of the '30s, '40s, '50s and '60s. At 7 and 9 p.m. The O'Daugherty Family Singers -- George, Sallie, Tom and Kiera, plus Buddy Griffin -- will offer "A Salute to Patriotism." The event is sponsored by the Charleston Community Music Assn. St. John's also will offer a Taize service at 10 p.m.



St. John's - A New Recombobulation Area

(an excerpt from my annual meeting sermon) By The Rev. Susan J. Latimer

Dear Saints of John,

A week ago Friday I traveled back from a leadership conference outside of Milwaukee. Milwaukee airport had some interesting extras. There was a large and well-stocked used book store, mostly hardbacks, nice wooden shelves filled with all kinds of books where I could have done most of my Christmas shopping, if I had had time. It goes without saying that there was lots of cheese, including these things called cheese curds that I won't try to explain. But my favorite part of the Milwaukee airport had to do with their security checkpoint.

Those of you who have flown in the past few years will know the drill - as you get close to the security checkpoint, you being to think carefully about all the things you have to take off and put through separately. Jackets, sweatshirts, scarves and vests all come off - everything but your bottom layer of shirt - and go in the grey plastic bin. Change in your pockets, large metal jewelry, cell phones, laptops, cameras, even belts, often have to come off and be put through separately. Don't forget your quart-sized bag of tiny toiletries. And your shoes. I think carefully about what kind of shoes I wear on the plane - weighing comfort against ease of removal. And then you say a prayer that you haven't forgotten some contraband in your carry-on that will set off the alarm such as hand cream or hand sanitizer or a half-drunk bottle of water that you forgot to take out of the side pocket. Sometimes even a large apple will cause your bag to go through the scanner more than once, while you are on the other, side, frantically trying to scoop up all your belongings before someone else does by mistake. You remember.

So, as I walked through the scanner and was pulling together all my parts which had been scattered into three bins and several small bowls, I looked up and saw a large sign: RECOMBOBULATION AREA.

After waiting in line like cattle to go through security, acutely aware that because you wore shoes with laces you are holding up someone in back of you who is about to miss their plane, all of a sudden you are in a wide open space, free to take your time and pull yourself, or yourselves, back together, without being in anyone's way.

The Recombobulation area in the Milwaukee airport consists of a spacious area with many chairs situated in convenient configurations. There was room for the family with six children to have a place all to themselves to recombobulate. There was room for others who required more time, the elderly, or differently abled, or those with babies and strollers. The Recombobulation area, of course, presumes that you have been previously discombobulated.

Merriam Webster defines discombobulate as: **To Upset, or Confuse.**

I especially like the synonyms - *addle, baffle, bamboozle, beat, befog, befuddle, bemuse, bewilder, buffalo, confound, disorient, flummox, fox, fuddle, maze, muddle, muddy, mystify, perplex, pose, puzzle, and vex.*

I venture to say that events over the past year at St. John's have left many of us feeling discombobulated. It's a great word. Discombobulated. Many of us, myself included, have been upset AND confused - and perhaps even bewildered, disoriented, flummoxed, mystified, perplexed and vexed by the manner in which the conflict in the parish played itself out.

And so the Vestry engaged the Alban Institute, and specifically our consultant, Susan Nienaber, to help us move out of our state of discombobulation.

We received the six-page report, and the Vestry last week voted unanimously to work on both of the major areas the consultant defined that need work - the Rector-parish bond, and some particular unhealthy aspects of the congregational culture.

And so we, as a parish, are in a time of Recombobulation. We could look at this next year as a **Recombobulation Area** for the parish. What are the tools that we will need to navigate this recombobulation?

First of all, we need time and space - it helps not to feel rushed. To push the metaphor a bit - if it takes someone longer to tie their shoes or put their backpack back together - we can graciously allow them some space to do so.

Secondly, we will continue to need some outside assistance (particularly for us to work on the unhealthy part of the congregational culture). The Vestry has already shown a desire to continue some work with Susan Nienaber of the Alban Institute.

Thirdly, we need God's help. We can each pray for the parish in our daily prayers, and we can continue to ask God's guidance as we move forward together. **(Continued on page 3)**

(Letter from The Rev. Susan J. Latimer - continued from page 2)

Lastly, we all need to participate.

*“For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating;
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight.” Isaiah 65*

Isaiah brought this message - God’s message of radical hope - to a deeply discombobulated people. The people who heard this message were returning to Jerusalem after their long exile. They returned to a monumental task:

- ❖ Rebuild their lives in a city of ruins.
- ❖ Rebuild their religious life while the temple is in ruins.

They had turned away from God, and suffered much in their exile. But now God calls them back, despite their unfaithfulness. God promises them joy and delight. This message of radical hope speaks to us, when we fear that we are stuck in our regret, our loss, our sin, with no way out.

Isaiah assures us that there is nothing “that is beyond the capacity of God to change.” (Martha Sterne) Perhaps God is the Great Recombobulator.

St. John’s is a great parish with a great future. And we have a lot of work to do. I am reminded of Alan Jones, former dean of Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, who said that most of us do not do the difficult work of spiritual growth willingly – most of us have to be dragged kicking and screaming into a situation in which this spiritual growth is required. I believe that God now calls us into a time of difficult and important work together. I believe that God has called us into this time of spiritual work in which all of us are called to stretch and grow, so that we may come out the other side Recombobulated. Peaceful, centered, and with a sense of clarity about our way forward.

And then, A Recombobulated People, we can move forward into the future that God desires for us, a future of joy and delight, and, yes, hard work. A future where we can more fully reach out into the world in Christ’s name, in the hope that all can find a home in God’s healing love. *Amen.*

In Christ, Susan+

Trusted Angels Offer Thanks

John Hunt and Kimmie Johnson of the Trusted Angels Foundation thank the parish for its amazing generosity to the children of Liberia. They will be in Liberia for January. If you wish to receive their email updates (which are often fun, sometimes sad) please sign up through the link on the bottom right corner of their homepage at: www.trustedangels.org

Wish Them Happy Birthday

Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating December birthdays: Dec. 2, Dan Halloran, Mita Janeshek, William Revercomb and Hugh Roberts; Dec. 5, Cynthia Barrett and Eric Wood; Dec. 7, Appu Kuruvilla; Dec. 8, Caroline Nelson; Dec. 9, Bren Pomponio and Diane Snyder; Dec. 10, Cindy Miller; Dec. 13, Stephen James, Al Kessler and Caitlyn Nelson; Dec. 14, Mary Anne Michael; Dec. 15, Leola Bohnert and Becky Burns; Dec. 17, Randy Cain, Beth Marquart and Gabe Price; Dec. 19, Jo Blackwood, Jonathan Doak, Jackie Hunt and Sadie McDonald; Dec. 21, Gloria Jones and Quentin Nix; Dec. 27, Ansley Blundon; Dec. 29, Whitney Hendricks; Dec. 30, David Ramkey; and Dec. 31, Anna Klusmeyer.

Donations Needed for Children in Ethiopia

We are gathering donations that Associate Rector Ann Lovejoy Johnson will bring to Horizon House care

center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, when she travels to meet her new son, Muse.

Items needed include Similac formula milk in lactose-free powder form, infant Motrin, Tylenol, Nystatin, vitamins, hydrocortisone, Bactoban and antibiotic ointments, and baby shampoo, soap, oil and powder.

For a more exhaustive list contact the Outreach Committee or the parish office. With Ann’s two trips to Ethiopia she will be able to carry at least 200 pounds of donations! Monetary (tax-exempt) donations may be made to “Wide Horizons for Children.” Items may be brought to the parish office. Our ingathering will be on Sunday, Dec. 5. Thank you!

Two for Taize

There will be two Taize prayer services this month. The first will be at 5 p.m. on Dec. 19 in the chapel. The second will take place after *Goodnight* on Dec. 31 in the church at 10 p.m. All are welcome.

In Memoriam

We are sad to report that parishioner Jack Stone died on Nov. 3 after a short illness. His funeral was held at Wilson Funeral Home on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. Also, Robert G. Clarke’s memorial service was held at St. John’s on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 3 p.m.

May light perpetual shine upon them.



Christian Formation for Children and Youth

Keep the Light On in the Window of Hope

By The Rev. Esber Tweel

Sunday, Dec. 5, will be a day to recognize and participate with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in supporting their ministries. The Diocese of Jerusalem has seven thousand Episcopalians that extend over five countries, including Palestine, Jordan, Israel, Syria and Lebanon. They have parishes, educational institutions, health care institutions and several special ministries.

One of the ways to participate in this ministry is to help support them financially at this time. The diocesan institutions help all who enter, regardless of religious, ethnic or economic status. By our support we can help keep the light on in the window of hope.

On many of my trips to the Middle East, I have experienced the church in action from the Gaza Strip to the most northern point of Israel/Palestine. I did not just pass through this land, I became a part of the people who live in this land. When I was in Ramallah I visited an Arab Evangelical Episcopal School.

This was one of my most exciting times in talking with a classroom full of ninth graders. After being with them for over two and a half hours, hearing their words and thoughts about the land and the people, I concluded my time by asking of them what it was that they would want from me. A young lady from the class stood up and came up front and said, "We want you to put your hand in our hand so that we can become one hand."

Dear people, this is a time when we can participate by putting our hand with theirs to become one hand with those who live under turmoil and strife. For more information you can go to: www.afedj.org.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call at 304 925-7060. I want to hear your voice, not an e-mail. Salaam, The Rev. Esber Tweel

Editor's Note: Please celebrate St. Nicholas, the patron saint of needy children, by making a contribution to the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ). Offerings will be received on Sunday, Dec. 5, and forwarded to the Diocese.

Thanking our Eagles Teachers

In October it became apparent that our small Eagles Class of third through fifth graders was not going to fly. Our three teachers were well prepared and had one child at the most on a given Sunday. Thus, at this time, we are

welcoming these youngsters to our Godly Play Worship Room. They will be "big kid" helpers - indeed they already have been - to our smallest ones in the class. We do not know where God is leading us in this ministry with our third, fourth and fifth graders, so until such a time as we have a group of kids participating regularly, this is our plan. We thank each of this fall's Eagles teachers for their willingness to serve - Margaret Lieberman, Karen Glazier and Ben Dettinger. We pray for them as they discern where God is calling them to offer their gifts and talents during this time of transition for the Eagles class. And we pray for God's continuing guidance as we shape our children and youth formation ministries.

The Young Saints of John

Our Sunday Schedule

Nursery - (Infants - age 5)
Room 297

Each Sunday at 9 a.m. to noon

Sundays 9:15 a.m. - as scheduled:

Godly Play (Grades PK- 5)
Room 298

Team of Godly Play

Teachers & Assistants:

Ann Lovejoy Johnson, Juanita Cook,
Wanda Dettinger, Doris Redfield,
Edd McDevitt, Karen Glazier

Journey to Adulthood Program:

Rite 13 (Grades 6-7) Room 224

Rite 13 Mentors: Julie McQuerrey,
Bren Pomponio, Maggie McCabe

J2A (Grades 8-9) Third floor

J2A Mentors: Randy Cain, Kate Alie,
Stephen Blake

YAC: Young Adults in the Church
(Grades 10-12)

Children's Chapel, Room 225

YAC Advisors: Tim Bradford, Tricia Poe,
Lia Palmer

For more information contact
the church office at (304) 346-0359,
or

The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson at
alovejoy@stjohnswv.org

THE HARVEST ALTAR FOR THANKSGIVING AT ST. JOHN'S



Through the creativity of a talented parishioner, Forrest Akers, the altar became a tribute to God's bounty for the Thanksgiving Day and Nov. 28 services. Forrest used a wide array of fruits and vegetables provided by Altar Guild Director Carter Blundon and combined them with ornamental grasses and dried hydrangeas from his own garden, interspersed with stacks of straw, to arrange this outstanding display.



Acolyte to Priest

The Rev. Zach Drennen recalled his days growing up at St. John's when he visited as guest speaker on Nov. 28. He is pictured with Rector Susan J. Latimer following the service and during the Adult Forum as Marion Perry, Forum director, attempts to place a halo on the unsuspecting priest. He spoke on his continuing work with the Elwana Project in Kenya.

Photos by Betty Jo Lloyd

New Vestry Members, Delegates Elected

The 2010 Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, Nov. 14, in Hunter Hall. Elections were conducted during the meeting to choose new Vestry members and delegates to the 2011 WV Diocesan Convention. Reports were received from Parish Treasurer Ray Shackelford and from Stewardship Chairperson Lynn Clarke. Rector Susan Latimer concluded the meeting with the Rector's Remarks.

During the Parish Meeting, the following parishioners were elected as Vestry members and convention delegates. The newly-elected Vestry members will take office at the January 2011 Vestry meeting.

❖ **Edd McDevitt, Liz Nix, Ann Garcelon, and Page Hamrick** were elected to full three-year terms to serve on the Vestry from 2011 thru 2013.

❖ **Steve Chionsini Jr.** was elected to fill a one-year unexpired term to serve on the Vestry in 2011.

❖ **Brooks McCabe, Michelle Walker and Beth Marquart** were elected to represent St. John's as delegates at the 2011 WV Diocesan Convention. **Beth Hamrick** will serve as the alternate.

Congratulations to our newly-elected Vestry members and convention delegates.



Dear Manna Meal Friends,

Again this year Manna Meal organization is participating in the 2011 Greenbrier Classic's Badges for Charity Program. When you buy your weekly badge, a **percentage of the sale** will go directly to **Manna Meal Soup Kitchen**.



Badges for the 2011 tournament are already on sale. They can be purchased by logging on to: www.greenbrierclassic.com and clicking on the **Buy Badges for Charity** tab at the bottom of the **Buy Tickets** page. Weekly Badges range from \$159 to \$5,000 and are all eligible for the Badges for Charity Program. *Remember a percentage of the purchase of your badges helps us feed the hungry.*

Church Memorabilia for Sale

The Archives Department of St. John's will hold a sale of church-related items during the coffee hours on Sundays Dec. 5 and Dec. 12. Included will be 1928 prayer books, St. John's Christmas cards and small wooden replicas of the church. Janet Morris, church archivist notes that all proceeds will be used for work of the Archives Department, for which there is no provision in the church budget.

Deadlines, We Love 'Em

Interchange is alive and well and looking toward a new year. Our next issue will be all about January, and because of the holidays the deadline will be a short one – Monday, Jan. 3 at 2 p.m. Please do your best to send us your articles and photos long before then to julkemp@yahoo.com or bdearien@stjohnswv.org.

Thrift Shop Needs Your Help

The Back Door Op Shop will be open on Sundays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. beginning Nov. 28 through Dec. 12 for your shopping convenience.

Also, the shop is in need of jewelry, men's jeans and underwear, neckties, socks for men and women plus Christmas decorations for resale. Please deliver such items to the shop on Tuesdays through Thursdays between noon and 3 p.m.

Your Kroger Purchases Help Our Outreach Projects

The Holiday Season is upon us! From a casual get-together with neighbors to a feast with all the family, fill all your holiday needs at Kroger. Use your Kroger card during the holidays and Kroger will send St. John's Outreach a check for 5% of your purchases! This goes for groceries, pharmacy, and gas. So far we have received \$3,814.88, and with your help we should have well over \$4,000.00 by the end of the year! Kroger cards can be picked up at the Manna Meal office or by calling Donna Hamra at 304-343-4709. Merry Christmas to all from the Outreach committee.



Wrap It Up for Manna Meal

Manna Meal will be participating in the Macy's **Charity Gift wrap on Dec. 1, 4, 15 and 17** from noon to 8 p.m. Please encourage your family, friends and neighbors to shop at Macy's those days and stop by our gift wrapping area. All donations received will benefit Manna Meal.



Bishop Makes Annual Visit

Bishop Michie Klusmeyer of the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia visited St. John's on Sunday, Nov. 7, and officiated at baptism, confirmation and reception of our newest members. Included were Joshua Bradford, Cameron Edwards, Dana Kelly, Ben Robinson, Travis Baldwin, Edd McDevitt and Mary Kathryn Saville.



Above, Associate Rector Ann Lovejoy Johnson, at left, and The Rev. Susan J. Latimer, right, assisted with the baptisms. In left photo, Edd McDevitt receives confirmation from Bishop Klusmeyer.

Photos by Stephen Blake

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	Bob Miller '13 Junior Warden	Becky Burns Parish life	Warren Upton Chancellor
The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson Associate Rector	Ray Shackelford '12 Treasurer	Donna Hamra Outreach	Carter Blundon Altar Guild
Brenda Maurice Vanderford Organist/ Choirmaster	Michelle Walker, '13 Clerk	Evangelism/New Member <i>Vestry Liaison</i> Diane Hendricks	Betty Jo Lloyd Worship Rota
David Morton Assisting Organist/ Choirmaster	Beth Marquart '11 Linda Cooper '12	Lynn Clarke Stewardship	Janet Morris Archives
Brenda Dearien Parish Administrator	Brian Hamra '11 Leah Macia '12	Mike Klausung Property	Robin Lester SAGA
Bob Westmoreland Verger	Diana Masso '12 Parker Smith '11	Marion Perry Adult Forum	Martha Cole Registrar
Dan Williams Custodian	Diane Hendricks '13 Bren Pomponio '13	Linda Cooper Pastoral Care	Ann Garcelon The Back Door Thrift Shop
<u>Vestry</u>	David Ramkey Assistant Treasurer	Carrie Swing Acolytes	Julianne Kemp & Melora Cann <i>Interchange</i> Co-Editors
John Canfield, '11 Senior Warden	David Ramkey / John Canfield Finance	Bob Miller Ushers	



TEA TIME FOR WIFFF

Women in Faith, Fun and Fellowship will meet Dec. 9 at the church for rides to the BeauTeaful Moments Tea Room in South

Charleston. Our reservation is for 12:30 p.m. and we will meet at 11:15 p.m. to travel to the restaurant for an hour of relaxation and fellowship. It is important that you make a reservation with Brenda Dearien at 304 346-0359 soon after Dec. 1.

Three's the Charm!

By Becky Burns

The Parish Life Committee completed another year with three events in three weeks. We also welcomed three new members to our committee—Josh Bradford, Cameron Edwards and Dana Kelly—all of whom were confirmed or received on Nov. 7.

We thank all the parishioners who donated finger food and desserts for High Tea following Evensong on Oct. 31. It was a splendid evening with a record number of people attending. Every scrap of food was enjoyed! Special thanks to Stephen Blake for being in charge and to all the helpers—Randy Cain, Randy McCoy (who also washed the linens), Jonathan Doak, Sandra Barkey, Randall Wagner, Stan Forrest, Mike Klausung, Parrish Thompson, Lora Thompson, Sandy Morris, Archie Morris, Vanda Butcher, Mary Coburn,

Georgia Hamra, Josh Bradford, Dana Kelly, and Cameron Edwards (who arranged our new silk flowers).

On Nov. 7 we welcomed Bishop Mike Klusmeyer and our newly confirmed and received members with a dessert buffet after church. Thank you, Brian Hamra, for such a lovely reception prepared with the help of Mary Coburn, Julie McQuerrey and Stephen Blake.

Gary Frame and Steve Chionsini prepared the Continental breakfast served during our annual parish meeting on Nov. 14. Thank you Gary and Steve for coming in early and having everything ready by 9:15! Thanks to Randall Wagner and Dana Kelly for helping me with the clean up.

As I write this article two days before Thanksgiving, I realize how much we all have to be thankful for at St. John's. I am particularly thankful for my wonderful Parish Life Committee members and their willingness to give their time to prepare and clean up after all the events. I have described them previously as a joyful band of saints, and that they are. I do hope I have not forgotten to mention anyone who helped us during the past month. Now we take a break until 2011.

Take Stock of Your Stock

If you plan on giving stock to pay 2010 or 2011 pledges before the end of the year, please notify Brenda Dearien in the church office, 304 346-0359. Books will close at noon on Dec. 31.