

**Dated Material.
Deliver by
Saturday
January 23**

Nonprofit
Organization
Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1163
Charleston, WV

CROSS-EXAMINATION

God Bless Saint John=s and all the Saints!

Karl Ruttan

How can I ever express my thanks for your generosity and support in my retirement? What a great send off! The banquet was truly remarkable. It was a great joy to see so many people. The entertainment was wonderful. How nice to sing AProtest Songs!@ And the offering of AWest Virginia Chose Me@ was so appropriate. The blessing from the choir Quartet was beautiful. The remarks and slide show were beyond what I could have imagined.

Your generous gift to me was overwhelming. Thanks to all who made it possible. It will be put to use as we explore the world! The iPod has been put to use and I enjoy listening to all kinds of music. It will be great for traveling.

Then Sunday=s farewell was very moving. The choir anthem with trumpet was magnificent. How I will miss the choir! I enjoyed the feast and all the presents. The Altar Guild gave me a beautiful linen cross from altar linens which is framed and ready to be displayed. The blanket from the women is gorgeous and will keep us warm! The quilt made by Carrie Swing and signed by all will be a lovely momento of all the Saints of John. And to add to all of this the picture book of the dinner from Betty Jo and Patty Bartlett and photographers was a fine gift to remember it all. How wonderful you have been to us. Thanks also for your individual cards and gifts.

St. John=s has been so good to us. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for your support, kindness and generosity. I have been overwhelmed by all your love shown to us. We have been so blessed to be at St. John=s. My family grew up here. You took good care of us. At Saint John=s we have grown so much with you. We have been blessed. Together with you we have served the community and grown spiritually. We have worked together, prayed together and played together. Keep up your good ministry. Continue to offer the same care to Liddy and the staff as you did for my family.

Now my ministry takes on new dimensions. I have a number of teaching opportunities coming up in the next six months. We leave this week for New Mexico where Mary and I will stay at a retreat center in Albuquerque. I will be leading a retreat in Florida in early February and than we are off to Taiwan to visit our son. Our daughter Lora will travel with us. We spend eleven days in Taiwan and than Lora flies home and Mary and I head to Australia. There I will teach some classes in spirituality and lead a men=s retreat. We will be back in early April. After that I have some teaching lined up in June with Virginia Theological Seminary and Bexley Hall.

We look forward to continue to live in Charleston. West Virginia chose us and this is our home. So we will be seeing you around town. Mary and I will find a new spiritual home when we return. We want to be respectful of the interim priest so that he can establish his leadership. We will always hold you in our hearts and you will be in our prayers during this transition.

Thank you all for your love and kindness. I am blessed to have served among you. Keep up the wonderful ministry Aof reaching out to the world in the hope that all will find a home in God=s healing love.@ May God bless you all!

The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
associate rector
Brenda Vanderford
organist/choirmaster
David Morton
assisting organist/choirmaster
Brenda Dearden
parish administrator
Katherine Gittin
Blessing Formation
Bob Westmoreland
verger
James Wilson
custodian
vestry
Greg Clarke >08
priest=s warden
Becky Burns >09
treasurer
Ellen Archibald >09
Cynthia Barrett >10
Joe Bolvard >09
Cheryl Clements >10
Page Hamrick >09
Diane Hendricks >08
Dan McDonald >10
David Vick >10
Ann Morris >08
Michelle Walker >08
David Ramkey
Assistant Treasurer
David Ramkey/Becky Burns
finance
Wanda Dettmer/Rose Smith
evangelist/new member
Page Hamrick
parish life
Dorinda
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
Steve Dashi
Bopowitz
Nathan Annet
children=s Christian formation
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell
youth Christian formation
Dorinda
Marilyn Perry
Phyllis Atwood
pastor at large
Bon Owens
Bob Swagg/Bob Miller
Cather Blundon
after burial
Beth Jo Loyd
Martha Cole
reception
Ann Savcok
Thrift Shop
intentional editor

Interchange

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

January 12, 2007, Vol. 47, No. 1

Sundays January 21 and 28, 2007 Third & Fourth Sundays after the Epiphany

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist.
8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Jan. 21: Parishioner Rick Wilson, Director

of the West Virginia Economic Justice Project of the American Friends Service Committee, will discuss A Economic Justice and the Common Good.@
Jan. 28: Dr. Dan Foster, West Virginia Senator, will address his concern that the State Pharmaceutical Cost Council is losing focus on reducing the cost of brand name drugs.

9:30 a.m. Nursery Open B Babies to 2 years old, Room 297
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 to Grade 5; Toddlers, Room 298;

Godly Play, 4 to 8 years old, Room 299; St. John=s Eagles, 3rd to 5th grades, Room 221

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall
11:45 a.m. Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood, Room 208

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Feb. 4 and 11. Items may be submitted to julkemp@charter.net or bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m.

St. John=s Mission Statement:
We reach out to the world in Christ=s name
in the hope that all might find a home in God=s healing love.

Saint John=s

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

New Year=s Resolution

By Sue Warren, Sallie Hunt, and the Health Ministries Committee

The new Health Ministries Committee wants to serve health-related needs of the Saints of John. Our first project is to provide you a chance to sign an official *advance directive* before Ellen Archibald, a notary public, after coffee hour on Feb. 4 or 11, 2007. Most of us know what we=d like if we=re seriously ill, but what if we can=t tell our family or the doctor? Who decides what kind of health care we receive? Advance directives offer a way to have our wishes honored when we=re too sick to make decisions. A trusted friend or relative can speak with health care providers for us, if we appoint such a person by signing a *medical power of attorney* (MPOA), but the person named could speak for us **only** if we couldn=t speak for ourselves. A *living will* can specify the type of care we want at the end of life, but it will apply **only** during the terminal phase of an illness, if we can=t express our views. An MPOA or living will can be changed at anytime, as long as the person has mental capacity. But we can=t make an MPOA or living will when we=ve lost decision-making ability. If you already have an MPOA, it's a good idea to make sure your named person knows your current wishes. Read about advance directives, <http://www.state.wv.us/seniorservices/pdf/newsletters/addir0405.pdf>, or join the Health Ministries Committee at coffee hour after the 10:30 a.m. service on Feb. 4 or 11, 2007. Start 2007 by taking control of your health.

Our Beautiful Christmas Decorations: They didn=t just happen but were carefully arranged by a talented and devoted crew, headed by Carter Blundon. Working to create the setting of greenery, trees, poinsettias and wreaths which were enjoyed from Christmas Eve to New Year=s Day were Barbara Clarke, Mary Coburn, Julie Swick, Sara and Laura Kimble, Augusta Kosowicz, Isabel Bukac, Mary Locke Gallaher, Kathie Giltinan, Barbara Knight, Mary Knighton, Melanie Knorr, Janet Morris, Judy Skiles, Helen and Tim Cheromcka, and Jim Wilson. Our warmest thanks to all.

POINTS Program: The January POINTs (Parents of Infants and Teens) group will meet on Monday, Jan. 22, and will feature a program on Peterkin, the summer camp for the West Virginia Episcopal Diocese. Just when you=re planning for summer camps and family vacations, come hear about Peterkin. Dinner is at 6 p.m. and the program starts at 7 p.m. Childcare will be available. For more information about POINTs, or to make a reservation, contact Sarah Ghiz Korwan at 342-2115.

Birthday Wishes: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: Jan. 15, Collin Wright; Jan. 17, Bernice Hosey and Rhonda Miller; Jan. 18, Robert Clarke and Raymond Smith; Jan. 19, Scott Kaminski and Brooks McCabe; Jan. 20, Seth Ramsey and Bob Swartz; Jan. 22, David Feinberg, Sallie Hunt, Stephen Lewis and Doris Redfield; Jan. 23, Kathryn Hilts; Jan. 24, Alice Hypes-Brown; Jan. 25, Hunter Birckhead; Jan. 26, Molly John, Olive Meyer, Greg Price and Guy Vitaglione; Jan. 27, Teresa Whitt; and Jan. 28, Jeffrey Gibson.

Needs Continue at Covenant House: They=re down to the last bucket of dry laundry soap, and toiletries are always needed at the Drop-In Center on Shrewsbury Street. The Food Pantry is out of cereal and

pasta. Winter coats for children and men as well as shoes continue to be a priority at the Clothing Closet, located at St. Mark=s United Methodist Church. Be an angel and help them out.

Message from Kent Higgins:

Dear Friends of St. John=s,

My heartfelt thanks to all of you for your generous ordination gift of a silver communion kit. I very much appreciate it.

I am grateful to those of you who attended and participated in the service Dec. 16. My particular thanks to Karl for preaching, and to Karl and Liddy for serving as presenters.

I look forward to being with you at some services over the next few months. And of course, you are welcome in Hinton anytime.

Remember. You started and endorsed me in this process, so you always need to keep an eye on me.

Peace,
Kent

Reflections on the Life of St. John=s

As I sit in quiet, listening to the organ, preparing for worship to begin, I see shadows of birds in the altar=s stained glass windows. Sunlight reflects a rainbow of colors into the sanctuary. My eyes are led heavenward along the lines of the vaulted ceiling, just like the architects intended. The peaceful sky blue of the sacristy has comforted thousands of others in similar services at St. John=s over the years.

The choir leads the congregation in *Glory to you* beholding the depths in the high vault of heaven, glory to you and my soul seems lifted up along the sun=s rays to the window once again. I glance at the eagle=s image in the window and on the lectern. Candles flicker as the choir=s voices drift upward. I recall shadows of a transitory life of those who have crossed our paths as previous priests as well goodbyes during funerals here for my family members and our parishioners this year.

But I also rejoice in the place of my marriage, family confirmations, and baptisms of all six grandchildren. As I watch our oldest grandchild serve as an acolyte, I recall both our sons carrying the same cross down the same aisle. A generation ago, I was moved to write an *Interchange* article about our older son as an acolyte, tying it into the hymn *Lift High the Cross*. Now, the same feelings sway over me.

As I prepare for Karl=s final Sunday as our priest, I know that St. John=s will go on. Karl=s shadow has fallen over each of us, just as the shadows of those birds in the altar=s window reveal their presence. Karl is a part of us all; he will be missed. He tells us that the cross is a symbol of self-giving love and urges us to *Keep the faith* reach out to the world and do what we can to be witnesses to that love. At the conclusion of the service, we join to say, *We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread and one cup*. Then, Liddy reminds us, *Time is short, brothers and sisters*. We know there will be days that we can=t see the birds= shadows, but they are still there, like our faith. Sometimes we may search in vain to see their images; just then the light will break through anew to show us the sun=s (Son=s) rays and allow us to see the shadows.

May God be with us all in this new year in the gloomy dark hours as well as in the happy, sunny days. Be watchful; our shadows will be cast along with that of the birds. – Jo Blackwood

