



# 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, WV.

**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 SEPT. 30 AND OCT. 7, 2007 EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
- 9:30 a.m. **Adult Forum, Sept. 30**, Perry Bryant, executive director of West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, with a representative of Advantra Freedom, will discuss the highly controversial switching of retired state employees' and teachers' medical coverage by PEIA to a Medicare Advantage Plan on July 1 ; **Oct. 7**, Parishioner James Thibeault, St. John's representative to the Global Reconciliation Commission, will discuss the millennial goals of the United Nations, one of which is the ending of world hunger , Room 109.
- 9:30 a.m. **Nursery Open** - 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 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. **Sept. 30, Farewell Luncheon for Liddy Hoster**, Hunter Hall
- 11:45 a.m. **Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood**, Room 208

### Madrigal 2007 Is Coming Soon

Hear ye! Hear ye! Auditions for the 2007 Madrigal play will be held after church on Sunday, Oct. 7, in Room 209. We invite former Half-Act Players and new ones as well to join us. We also need volunteers to help behind the scenes. Madrigal is an exciting event, so if you are ready for some great fun, please join us. For more information, contact Becky Burns at [rebeccaburns@suddenlink.net](mailto:rebeccaburns@suddenlink.net) or 925-6759. Performances are Dec. 7 and 8 in Hunter Hall.

## *Outstanding Speaker*

The Rev. Dr. Margaret Guenther, an Episcopal priest and internationally known lecturer, will be presenter at a Prayer and Spirituality Workshop on Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Baptist Temple. The program is being co-sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia and the West Virginia Institute of Spirituality.

Dr. Guenther is the author of many books on spirituality.

Fee for the day is \$50 which includes lunch. CEUs are available for social workers and licensed professional counselors. Call 345-0926 to register.

## **Interchange Deadlines**

The next issue will be for the weeks of Oct. 14 and 21. Submit items to

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

or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) by Tuesday, Oct. 2, at 4 p.m.

## **Bishop's Ball**

The 2007 Bishop's Ball will be held Oct. 12 from 8 to 11 p.m. at Stonewall Resort, Roanoke, WV. Cost is \$75 per person and tickets may be purchased at the church office. For rooms, call the resort at (888) 278-8150.

*Strength To Share*

*By Lynn Clarke*

"Strength to Share" is our stewardship theme this year. What is Christian strength? Jesus is our strength not because he had money, muscles or armies. He is our strength because he emptied himself.

But I don't want to follow that example. I don't want to empty myself. I see loved ones coping with illness or aging. Some have passed away. I'm not getting any younger either. The news reports are filled with increasing violence, disaster, cruelty and despair. With everything going to pieces, I don't want to empty myself. I want to hang on to everything I can, for as long as I can. But that's not Christian strength.

So what can I do? How can I begin to empty myself? St. John's gives me the chance to begin, over and over. I can start by giving my time and treasure to St. John's. I can start to empty myself right now by filling out my pledge card. I might tell you I'm doing it to keep St. John's strong. I'm really more selfish than that. I'm pledging because it's a step I can take to empty myself out for others. That lets Christ's strength in.

## **Remember Undie Sunday?**

Amy Weintraub, executive director of Covenant House, writes: "Thank you very much for St. John's Episcopal Church's in-kind contribution to Covenant House's Clothing Closet. We received your gift of three bags of new children's underwear on Aug. 20. Because of your generosity, Covenant House is able to provide much-needed clothing to individuals and families throughout the greater Kanawha Valley. Also, thanks to your gift, dollars that Covenant House would have spent to supply the Clothing Closet can now be directed toward other critical programs and services.

## **Come and Say Goodbye to Liddy**

You have one more chance to make your favorite dish for our associate rector, The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster, before she leaves to become rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Toledo, Ohio. On Sunday, Sept. 30, we will honor Liddy for her four-year ministry here with a farewell potluck luncheon. Parish Life will provide turkey breast and dinner rolls. Please bring salads, side dishes and desserts to make it a memorable feast.

## **It's the Little Things**

By Michelle Walker

I've noticed a lot more things changing around me this year. Have you? And I don't mean just "in the world" but around St. John's, too.

The Property Committee has been busy. New signs have been put up around the church, inside and out. The garden has gotten a sprinkler system. The columbarium has been repaired. The drain at the base of the ramp has had a serious adjustment.

Colorful flowerpots have been added to the parking area. There are interesting looking receptacles in place of the standard sand buckets that used to catch the remains of cigarettes. We have more parking spaces for those who are handicapped.

But wait, there's more. Have you seen the fascinating statue that has been placed just behind the gate on Quarrier Street, the beautiful icons that have been installed for spiritual reflection inside the church, the bulletin boards?

Being around the church this summer you've noticed all the activity. Vacation Bible School turned the church into a vibrant dude ranch one week in July.

The Search Committee has really taken charge and moved our search process along quite nicely, thank you.

And several folks in the parish helped me learn a bit of the vast history of our church by sharing their special stories with me. The recollections are now in a CD called "St. John's Stories: I Remember It So Well." It started out as a way during this time of transition to collect remembrances and has turned into a fund-raising project.

I've surprised you? Come on, this is St. John's.

Bishop Michie Klusmeyer asked the churches in the diocese to each raise funds for the Bishop's Slide Fund, a collection that will be used to help eradicate illiteracy in the West Virginia Diocese. The CDs are a way for folks to hear the stories of others who love this wonderful church and at the same time help out. The donation being sought is \$10. It's a little thing that added up will do much to help.

What am I leaving out?

Dozens of things, I am sure. The phenomenal activities going on at our church really move me. If you get a chance, let me know what moves you, too. If enough people do this, soon enough we'll have Volume Two.

### **Make That Deadline**

If you like the new format of Interchange and would like to contribute to its success, we urge you to contribute items of interest for publication. But please don't wait until the last minute. It makes your editors cranky. To quote Webster: "deadline - the time after which copy is not accepted for a particular issue of a publication" or, our personal favorite - "a line drawn around a prison that a prisoner passes at the risk of being shot."

### **Say Happy Birthday**

Pray for the lives and ministries of parishioners celebrating birthdays during the last week of September: Sept. 25, Denise Ferguson and John Kuruvilla; Sept. 26, Julia Beury, Cecil Rodney and Gayle Twigger-Shaw; Sept. 22, Holly Blackwod, Mary Adelia MacLeod, Sandy Morris, Warren Upton and Mika Vickers; Sept. 28, Joseph Skiles; Sept. 29, Diane Clements, Suzanne Nelson and

Jeff Swing; and Sept. 30, Julie Blackwood and Tom Lloyd. **All of the October birthdays are listed at the bottom of the calendar insert.**

**Silence at St. John's**  
*By Olive Meyer*

"If you love truth be a lover of silence.  
Silence like the sunlight will illumine you in God .....  
Silence will unite you to God himself."  
.... Isaac of Ninevah

Among others, there are two opportunities into which we are invited to immerse ourselves in what Thomas Merton calls "creative Christian silence." One is Centering Prayer every Monday at 12:45 p.m.; the other happens on the second Sunday of every month. Starting on Sunday, Oct. 14, we will have Taize Prayer at 5:30 p.m. in the chapel. Taize prayer is a short meditative service incorporating music, prayers, readings and silence. We worship by candlelight. Unlike Holy Eucharist on Sunday mornings the pace is slow and restful, not dramatic and celebratory. In the middle of the service there is a short time for silent meditation. During this time, which lasts about 10 minutes, we pray, sometimes with words; sometimes without words; sometimes we just rest in God's peace and presence. We do whatever we feel moved to do. There is a short printed reflection provided to assist us in this time.

The music that we use is very simple and classical in style. A melody is repeated over and over until it becomes almost mantra and we seem to absorb it. Sometimes a flute plays; sometimes someone sings a descant; we just keep on singing the tune. Slowly we are drawn into God's timeless, peaceful space. The service ends with song and we leave in peaceful silence as we came.

For more information please pick up a brochure found on the table at the back of the church or call Olive Meyer at 744-9219, email oameyer@suddenlink.net

### **Time to Begin a New Sunday School Year at St. John's!**

*By Kathie Giltinan*

What a busy summer! Many of you spent time at Peterkin and enjoyed family vacations. Our teens helped with Avalanche Ranch and participated in the Diocesan trip to Cedar Point. Now school has started, a concert with Fran McKendree got us ready for our Kick Off Sunday and Open House.

Open house began with coffee and breakfast rolls in the Mollie Warwick Room (Room 208.) The chapel and classrooms were open and teachers were available. Children made their new nametags and new registration cards were completed. Regular classes began on Sept. 23. With the return of Sunday school, we start having Christian Formation Team meetings again. A small group meets on the third Sunday of the month to plan the events and classes. Our next CFT meeting will be Oct. 21 at noon in Room 209. David Hackett will join us for this meeting and we'll get pizza instead of the usual "pot luck" lunch. Please come to this one if you're interested in a discussion of St. John's Sunday school.

#### **What Children Will be Learning in Sunday School**

Your Christian Formation Team met in August to get ready for the new Sunday school year. I will be working with Beth Hamrick, Brenda Vanderford and Margaret Lieberman on children's music for chapel. Also in chapel we work on the liturgical responses with even the youngest children. All children in St. John's Sunday school will be learning lessons from the Bible, taught through stories, art, drama, music and conversation. They will be learning to pray through memorized prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer and sharing favorite table blessings, and through conversational prayer. Leading up to St. Francis Day on Oct. 7, we'll look at ways to be of service to our community and its animals. St. John's teaches the symbols of Christianity and the Episcopal Church. For example, children will have an in-depth study leading up to All Saints Day, November 4<sup>th</sup>, when they will portray chosen saints during the 10:30 service, sing for the congregation and share what they've learned during coffee hour. Older children will be learning the ten

best ways to live, how to find Bible verses, recite the four Gospels, and recognize the twelve disciples. Most important, perhaps, they'll find a loving and supportive church home that will nourish them spiritually, encouraging them as they discover, grow and share in the extended family of God's love.

### **How We Will be Teaching**

We'll continue to have Godly Play for ages five through nine and use the *All Things New* curriculum. *All Things New* welcomes children into today's Episcopal Church with scripture-centered faith formation. All ages focus on the same story in age appropriate ways. For our toddlers we'll blend a kindergarten version of *All Things New* with Godly Play. The Eagles class will use the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade version. We will continue with the teaching team model. The Godly Play team for September through Oct. 14 will be Susannah Vitaglione and Susanne Coffield. On Sept. 23 Nathan Arnett will tell the Creation story. On Sept. 30 we'll see the StoryKeepers video and wonder together about the story of God's people. Oct. 7 is our celebration of St. Francis Day and your Godly Play team is working on a new presentation of the St. Francis story. On Oct. 14 the desert box will come out for a story of God's people. Would you like to help as part of the next team? Margaret Lieberman will teach the Eagles and *there's still room on her team for volunteers*. Sara Walker, Jason Beschinski, Jo Blackwood, and Diane Hendricks will help with our youth this year. The teens and the new Rite 13 group will have meet on the first and third Sundays of the month and alternate a "service" Sunday with a "fun and friends" Sunday. We'll celebrate Rite 13 before Christmas and beginning in early January, the confirmation class will be meeting on the second and fourth Sundays. Confirmation will take place during the Bishop's visit on Mother's Day.