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## CROSS-EXAMINATION

### Love Will Prevail As We Move Forward By Beth Marquart

I'm just back from the Diocesan Convention where St. John=s was well represented by its delegation. We voted well and truly, Karl Ruttan eloquently spoke to issues from the floor. Kathie Giltinan led a thoughtful and informative program on our Vacation Bible School efforts and successes as an urban church. In a word: love.

And our outreach programs were present. SAGA and Colors of Life with their popular and sometimes lively messages of hope and Spokes for Folks were briefly discussed. All three of our outreach efforts caused people to seek us out and talk about what it is, how it is and why it is that we invest in these programs. I know I spoke about our mission statement both directly and indirectly and overheard Margaret Lindsay and Gail Higgins at the Straight and Gay Alliance booth doing the same, describing how it forms, informs and reforms who we are as we reach out to the world in Christ=s name that all might find a home in God=s healing love.

In the mid >90s I was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. At a gathering a question was raised: If the Fellowship folded, where would you worship? The group was split three ways: St. John's, the Temple and nowhere. St. John=s and the Temple because of the reputation each enjoyed in the community for social justice, outreach and education. A few years later I settled at St. John=s because I felt a need to revisit my Christian roots and was aware that you literally fed those in need through Manna Meal and threw open your doors to AA, NA and all the other AA=s@ who sought out a safe, welcoming place to meet. In a word: love.

And then there is Karl=s announced retirement. At the convention people -- both clergy and laity -- from across the diocese asked me what will you do; how will you go forward? And while personally I wander between joy for Karl and Mary and their next great adventure, uncertainty about what this news brings and know that there is a mourning going on here with more to come (and suspect this low-key emotional roller coaster is shared by many), I also know that St. John=s will do what St. John=s does: celebrate, mourn, share a meal, celebrate some more, share some funny stories and some deeply felt tugs on the heart, mourn, pray, share another meal, welcome some new members and worship together while setting out to find the next rector.

Yes, love. In the nature of the commandment to love one=s neighbor as oneself. Of acknowledging my wealth and choosing, out of God=s grace, to share it with another who may be less fortunate B and trust me, we all take turns being the less fortunate if only in body, mind or spirit, it isn=t necessarily the AA or Manna Meal guest who is in greatest need. Of living our mission statement through which we are healed over and over and over again: love.

I offer this hope: that calm will prevail, that love will prevail as we move forward. That in this time of change and transition we can hold one another lovingly, stretching our ability to be understanding and compassionate with one another and help one another heal by returning again and again to Christ on the cross and keep this question before us: Where is God=s love in this?

The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan  
rector  
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster  
associate rector  
Brenda Vanderford  
director of music  
Brenda Dearjen  
parish administrator  
Katherine Giltinan  
Christian Formation  
Bob Westmoreland  
verger  
James Wilson  
custodian  
vestry  
Greg Clarke >08  
priest-s warden  
Lila Ramkey >07  
people-s warden  
Bren Pomponio >07  
clerk  
Becky Burns >06  
treasurer  
Ellen Archibald >09  
Joe Bolvard >09  
Cheryl Clements >07  
Page Hamrick >09  
Diane Hendricks >08  
Ann Morris >08  
Bob Swartz >07  
Michelle Walker >08  
David Ramkey  
Assistant Treasurer  
David Ramkey/Becky Burns  
finance  
Wanda Dettlinger/Rose Smith  
evangelism/new member  
Mary Fitzgerald  
parish life  
Marv Barklow/Donna Hamra  
outreach  
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald  
stewardship  
Bob Swartz  
Nathan Annett  
children-s Christian Formation  
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell  
youth Christian Formation  
Diana Haggards  
parish life  
Marion Perry  
adult forum  
Phyllis Atwood  
pastor at large  
Barb Weggs  
Bob Swartz/Bob Miller  
pastors  
Cathy Pundon  
parish life  
Beth Jo Loyd  
Maggie Cole  
Ann Garcelon  
Primit Shop  
intentional pastor

# Saint John=s 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.

October 19, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 18

## Sundays October 29 and November 5, 2006

### Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost and All Saints Sunday

**8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**  
**8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library**  
**9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Oct. 29, Michael Jarrett of the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority will discuss his life as an emergency services chaplain.**

**Nov. 5, Jim Haught, editor of the Charleston Gazette, will discuss past Gazette crusades under former editors Ned Chilton and Don Marsh and Aother old-timey stuff.@ Room 109.**

**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, 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**  
**11:45 a.m. Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood, Room 208**  
**5:00 p.m. Oct. 29, Evensong, followed by High Tea**

The Collect: *Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

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](http://www.stjohnswv.org)

**ADo good ... be rich in good works, generous and ready to share** ¶ These words from the first letter of Timothy provide a guideline for all of us as we prayerfully consider our pledges for 2007. Because of the generosity of the Saints of John in 2006, we were able to keep our associate rector, Liddy Hoster, to repair and beautify our building, and to expand our programs within the church and the community. In 2007 we will face new challenges: meeting the rising costs of insurance, utilities, and building maintenance, and most importantly, seeking an interim priest and a new rector. If you do not currently pledge, please help us prepare for the future by making a pledge for 2007. A 10% increase in each current pledge would help cover the rising costs we face. Please continue your generous giving to this church that gives so much to all of us and to the community. Commitment Sunday is Nov. 5.

**The Evensong Tradition:** On the Sunday before All Saints Day, Nov. 1, St. John=s exceptional musical talents present Evensong. This favored musical program will take place on Sunday, Oct. 29, at 5 p.m. and everyone is invited to share this experience. High Tea will follow in Hunter Hall and donations of cookies and finger foods will be gratefully accepted. Financial donations are also helpful. Please sign up after church or call the office, 346-0359, if you can help.

**Birthday Wishes:** Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks: Oct. 23, Courtlandt Smith and Sara Walker; Oct. 24, Bob Bennett and Dale Snyder; Oct. 25, Ben Canfield, Denise Giardina and Olivia Jefferds; Oct. 26, Patti Bartlett, Betty Hamilton and Margaret Lieberman; Oct. 28, David Kershner and Maggie Morris; Oct. 29, Gene Coccari; Oct. 30, Tara Brown, Allison Hendricks and Chloe Johnson; Oct. 31, Ben Dettinger; Nov. 2, Margaret Leef; Nov. 3, Jane Maguire and Sarah Mangus; Nov. 4, Julia McDonald and Barbara Walker; and Nov. 5, Tim Nelson and Paul Ochs.

**Come to Breakfast:** Men of St. John=s will hold their monthly breakfast meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 1, at First Watch on Summers Street. Please join in this time of fellowship.

**Men Seeking God:** West Virginia Institute of Spirituality (WVIS) will offer a workshop for men called "Men Seeking God: Archetypes and the Spiritual Journey" led by our Rector Karl Ruttan. The workshop is scheduled for Nov. 18 from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1601 Virginia St. E. Cost is \$35 including lunch. Scholarships are available upon request. Register through WVIS at 345-0926.

**Luncheon Plans:** Polly Diller will be guest speaker at the luncheon meeting of Women In Faith, Fun and Fellowship at 11:30 a.m. Nov. 9. Her topic will be ¶How Not To Be Taken.¶ Reservations are due by Nov. 7 by calling 346-0359. Everyone is welcome.

**Gospel Concert:** Ethel Caffie-Austin, an outstanding gospel singer, will present a concert at St. John=s on Sunday, Nov. 19, at 4 p.m. A reception will follow in Hunter Hall. WIFFF and the New Member/Evangelism Committee are sponsoring the event to which all parishioners and their friends are invited.

**Significant Film:** ¶An Inconvenient Truth,¶ Al Gore's presentation on global warming, will be shown at St. John's on Sunday, Nov. 5, at 5:30 p.m. in Room 209. All are welcome.

**Thanks to the Stewardship Committee!** Thanks to everyone who helped make our stewardship luncheon on Oct. 15 a success: Leila and Frank Martin, who took charge of setting up; their helpers, David Ramkey, Leila=s sister Connie, Gardner Stultz, and Mary Coburn; the clean-up committee, Bob Cochran, Ben Owens, Jeff Gibson, Danny Cline and Becky Burns; and Dan McDonald and Greg Clarke for their excellent presentations on the accomplishments and challenges of St. John=s Church. Special thanks to Manna Meal staff, especially Ricky, who was our special saint on Sunday! And, of course, thanks to everyone who brought delicious food to share in the true St. John>s tradition.

**Health Ministries Coming to St. John=s:** Are you interested in being part of a Health Ministries program at St. John's? For the past year and a half Mary Barkalow has been involved in the diocesan Health Ministries Committee. It's time to bring this idea to St. John's. Health Ministries encompasses any program or activity that focuses on wellness of body, mind, and spirit. Please contact Mary Barkalow at [mbarkalow@hotmail.com](mailto:mbarkalow@hotmail.com) or 343-0581 if you are interested. We will find a time to meet to begin exploring the many ways that Health Ministries might be implemented at St. John's.

**Dinner Parties:** Dinners for Eight is an opportunity to meet other St. John's parishioners over dinner. We are getting a new list of dinner opportunities together this fall. If you would like to attend a dinner, please contact Rose Smith at [rlsmith1@charter.net](mailto:rlsmith1@charter.net) or Wanda Dettinger at [WDettinger@aol.com](mailto:WDettinger@aol.com)

**Winter=s Coming:** Look in your closet and see if you have any extra winter coats for children or men. Covenant House informs us that the Clothing Closet located at St. Mark=s Methodist Church has a great need for these items, especially since they lost a past supplier of coats this year. Also, the Food Pantry would like donations of cereal, rice and dry beans, and the Drop-In Center on Shrewsbury Street needs deodorants, razors and toothpaste.

**Just a Reminder:** We have established additional parking spaces in our lot on Sundays for those who have special needs. If you need to park close to the church because you have a sore knee, back pain, etc., please use one of the designated spaces for handicapped or elderly. We are trying to make church possible for all those who want to come.

**Lawton Posey** has repaired and restored the hearing devices for the hearing impaired. These may be obtained at the Visitors= Table.

**Interchange Deadlines:** The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Nov. 12 and 19. Items may be submitted to [julkemp@charter.net](mailto:julkemp@charter.net) or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) by Tuesday, Oct. 31, at 4 p.m.

