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CROSS-EXAMINATION

**Thanks for Your Support and Encouragement
By Kent Higgins**

Dear Friends,

I second the invitation (which was printed in the last Interchange) for all of you to attend my ordination as a deacon on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 11a.m. at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in Charleston. Paul Franke and Rick Rutledge also will be ordained at the service, and then the three of us will be ordained priests (God and the people (and the bishop!) willing) on Saturday, June 16, 2007, at 11a.m. at St. Matthews.

More importantly, I thank the entire congregation for the support I have received during the lengthy local-training process. I appreciate especially the time that members of my discernment committee devoted to the task of discerning a call, the endorsements of vestries at various points in the process, and, of course, the on-going support of Karl and Liddy. All of these gifts were generously given and gratefully received.

Bishop Klusmeyer has asked me to assist at Ascension Church, Hinton, and St. Andrew's Church, Mullens, for a two-year period. The hope is that these congregations will be able to identify one or more persons from among their ranks to be locally trained and then to serve those congregations as their clergy person. I ask your prayers for all involved in this process, even as you engage in calling a new rector.

The St. John's vestry has asked that I serve at least part of my six-months' deaconal period assisting here during your search process. This is in response to an offer I made to express my gratitude to the congregation for your support and encouragement. I do not yet have a final schedule worked out with the diocese, but I hope this can be accommodated.

Once I am ordained, I can no longer be a member of any particular congregation, and Gail will be accompanying me to Hinton, Mullens, and beyond (which is a gift in and of itself!) We hope to maintain a connection with you all, but at the very least please know that we will take with us from this place a vision of how a church community can and should reach out to serve the community around it. You have done much to live out the Great Commission, and my prayers will be with you always.

Peace and love to you all!

The Rev. Dr. Karl D. Ruttan
Rector
The Rev. Elizabeth Hoster
associate rector
Brenda Vanderford
director of music
Brenda DeLuca
parish administrator
Katherine Gittman
Christian formation
Bob Westmoreland
vestry
Janet Wilson
custodian
Greg Clarke >08
priest-s warden
Lila Ramkey >07
people's warden
Bren Pomponio >07
clerk
Becky Burns >06
treasurer
Ellen Archibald >09
Joe Hayward >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 Dettiner/Rose Smith
evangelism/new member
Mary Fitzgerald
parish life
Marv Barkow/Donna Hamra
worship
Bob Cochran/Dan McDonald
children's Christian formation
Bob Swartz
Nathan Annet
children's Christian formation
Melonie Knorr/Kasey Russell
youth Christian formation
Diane Hendricks
confirmation
Marilyn Coffey
Phyllis Atwood
pastoral care
Ben Owens
Baptists
Bob Swartz/Bob Miller
Carter Blundon
after lunch
Beth Jo Lovd
worship
Martha Cole
rector
Ann Asarcio
Thrift Shop
Julianne Keator
intelligence

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.

November 30, 2006, Vol. 46, No. 21

Sundays December 10 and 17, 2006 Second & Third Sunday of Advent

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist**
8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
9:30 a.m. Adult Forum: Dec. 10, State Senator Brooks McCabe, a St. John=s parishioner, will share his thoughts on the role of religion in public life; **Dec. 17,** Parishioner Denise Giardina, widely acclaimed author and educator, will discuss references to the annunciation in T.S. Elliot=s A Quartets, @ 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, 3rd to 5th grades, Room 221
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist,** with choir
Dec 17 – Advent Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist
11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall (child care provided in Library)
11:45 a.m. Rite 13/Journey to Adulthood, Room 208

Interchange Deadlines: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Dec. 24 and 31 and Jan. 7 and 14. Items may be submitted to julkemp@charter.net or bdearien@stjohnswv.org by Tuesday, Dec. 12, 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.

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

Our New Vestry: Congratulations to those elected to three-year terms on the Vestry at the annual meeting held Nov. 19. Serving in this capacity will be Cynthia Barrett, Cheryl Clements, Dan McDonald

and David Vick. Chosen as representatives to the Diocesan Convention were Brooks McCabe, Beth Hamrick and Beth Marquart, with Wanda Dettinger as alternate. Our thanks to all who accepted the invitation to run for these offices.

Traditional Service: Advent Lessons and Carols will be offered at St. John's on Dec. 17 at our 10:30 a.m. service. This beautiful service in the English tradition will feature our St. Ambrose choir.

Other Christmas Services: We are combining Sunday morning services on Dec. 24 to one service at 9:30 a.m.. The family service called Chrstingle will include Holy Eucharist at 4:30 p.m. and the Festive Holy Eucharist for the Feast of the Incarnation will be at 11 p.m. with a musical prelude at 10:30 p.m.. On Dec. 25 we will have a 10:30 a.m. service.

Change of Plans: Christingle assembly was scheduled for Friday, Dec. 22. In order to accommodate working parents who do not have a holiday on Friday, the Christian Formation Team changed the date to Saturday, Dec. 23. Bring your family and have fun making Christingles from 10 a.m. to noon in Room 109.

Pre-Christingle Event: CFT volunteers are invited to help prepare for the Saturday Christingle event on Wednesday, Dec. 20, at 5:30 p.m. at Kathie Giltinan=s home. We=ll celebrate the Advent season. Enjoy wine and cheeses while cutting out foil stars and putting red tape on oranges. Please call Kathie at 342-1647 if you plan on coming to this grown-ups only event.

Special Dinner to Honor Karl and Mary: Please mark your calendar for Dec. 29 to attend a very special dinner to honor two very special people! As Karl and Mary prepare to leave St. John=s to start new chapters in their lives, please plan on attending an evening of food, fun, and fellowship to honor them and wish them well. Details will follow in a separate mailing.

Birthday People: Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating birthdays during the next two weeks, including the Nov. 22 birthday of David Costelli and the Nov. 24 birthday of Darlene Daneker; Dec. 5, Cynthia Barrett and Eric Wood; Dec. 6, Savannah Reese; Dec. 7, Appu Kuruvilla; Dec. 9, Bren Pomponio and Diane Snyder; Dec. 10, Cindy Miller; Dec. 11, Shelby Cecil; Dec. 13, Stephen James and Caitlyn Nelson; Dec. 14, Mary Anne Michael; Dec. 15, Leota Bohnert, Becky Burns and Teddy Gardner; and Dec. 17, Beth Marquart and Gabe Price.

Go to The Back Door for Christmas Gifts: Since September 2005, our thrift shop has been in bright new quarters, just across the church parking lot at the rear of St. Elizabeth=s House. Now known as The Back Door, the shop is filled with quality clothing at bargain prices. Also there is a large assortment of household goods and gift items that would make anyone=s Christmas shopping a breeze. Stop by and see what the shop has to offer. All proceeds go back into buying needed furnishings, etc. for St. John=s. Hours are from noon to 3 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Serving Breakfast: The St John=s Men=s Breakfast Group will meet at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 6, at First Watch on Summers Street. All men of the parish are invited to come and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Rebuilding Group: The First Presbyterian Church and the Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center are sponsoring a Rebuilding Group for those dealing with divorce. The group will start Monday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. in the church=s Ruffner Room. There is no charge. For more information, call Bob Schacht at KPCC, 346-9689.

Spiritual Workshop: Our Rector Karl Ruttan will offer a workshop called "The Spiritual Journey of Men and Women: Finding Guides on the Way" on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 9 a.m. to noon. The workshop will explore the distinctive journeys of men and women and the importance of archetypes as aiding or blocking spiritual growth. Please call the office to register by Dec. 5.

Epiphany Party: You=re invited to the Christian Formation Team=s Epiphany party on Saturday, Jan. 6, at Katherine and Gary Paybins house in the Elkview area. We'll meet there about noon, have a big bonfire and toss our Christmas trees and other greenery into it. Then the children can roast hot dogs (and tofu pups) on the fire. Lunch will be followed with the cake, gold coins and -- finally -- the re-enactment of the kings bringing gifts to the manger. Please let Kathie know if you need driving directions.

Don=t Pass By the Alms Box: All of us know that myriad charities have their hands out, especially at this time of the year. Our alms box is an exception. It remains quietly at the back of the church, between the main church and the chapel, waiting for those who pass by to drop in their donations. All money received from this box is divided evenly between two vital programs B Manna Meal and Covenant House. Please seek out the alms box and help stuff it for the holiday season.

Welcome New Members: Since May, the following have transferred their memberships to St. John=s: Jeff and Andrew Swing, Edward and Calvert Armbrrecht, Sarah Ann and Laura K. Kimble, Brenda and Michael Loving, and Amy Hively

Year-End Finances: The financial books will be closed at 2 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 29. If you are planning to transfer any stock, please do so before that date and please let the office know. Anything transferred or received after that date will be credited to 2007. The office will be closed that week, however mail will be checked

Successful Concert: Many thanks to all the Saints of John for their time, talent and delicious food at the Ethel Caffie-Austin concert. Your help made the concert a great success and we appreciate all who contributed to this event.

Grab Your Skis: Jason Beschinski, Diocesan Youth Ministries Coordinator, has announced that the first of many events for middle and high school aged youth will be a ski trip to Winterplace Ski Resort near Beckley Jan. 12 to 14, 2007. St. Stephen=s of Beckley will host the event to which adult chaperones are welcome. Cost will be determined by ski package, ranging from \$22 for tubing only to \$85 to snowboard. Registration deadline is Dec. 20 in the diocesan office. Those registering after Dec. 20 will not be eligible for the group discount. Printable versions of the brochure and registration form are available on the youth website: www.youthofwv.org. Please contact Jason if you have any questions.