



# Saint John's

## Inter **C**hange

Dated Material, Deliver by  
Saturday, January 10, 2009

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

January 08, 2009, Vol. 49, No. 01

## Schedule for Worship

### SUNDAYS JANUARY 11 AND 18, 2009 FIRST AND SECOND SUNDAYS AFTER EPIPHANY

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
- 9:00 a.m. Rite 13, twice a month, Room 226
- 9:30 a.m. Nursery open, Room 297
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, Jan. 11, Ever go into a room and forget why you're there? Dr. Nancy Knop may provide a clue with "Your Changing Brain: Recent Research on the Brain and Learning"; Jan. 18, Steven Day, a parishioner of St. Mark's in St. Albans who is doing mission work on behalf of our diocese in Tanzania, will share the forum with Isabel Mwangi, director of "Colors of Life Africa" in Kenya, Room 109.
- 10:30 a.m. Classes for toddlers through Grade 5: Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> grades, Room 299; St. John's Eagles, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades, Room 221. (Children will be in church on the first Sunday of every month.)
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall (Jan. 18, special reception for our new associate rector, Ann Lovejoy Johnson)
- 5:00 p.m. Jan. 18, Taize service



### Check Out Our Facebook

St. John's now has a Facebook page on the web. Our folks who use Facebook are encouraged to add St. John's to their "fan" list.

### Christmas Items on Sale

The Back Door, St. John's thrift shop, has begun its after-Christmas sale of all holiday decorations and clothing. All remaining items will be stored beginning Jan. 22. So if you have more Christmas-themed things you would like to donate for next year's sale, please bring them to the shop before that date.



## Benedictine Spirituality – a Path for the Year Ahead

*By the Rev. Susan J. Latimer*

*Dear Saints of John,*

It is a new year - a time for new hope, new energy, new direction. Our new Associate Rector, Ann Lovejoy Johnson, will join us on Sunday, Jan. 18. I am excited about the ministry possibilities that her presence will enable here at St. John's! Our new Vestry will have a working retreat Jan. 23 to 25. What a wonderful group of leaders! I am excited about working with them this next year to deepen our parish's spirituality – contemplation and action.

Sometimes it is a good thing to turn, or return, to ancient wisdom. An example of this is the wisdom of Benedictine Spirituality. St. Benedict wrote the rule of life hundreds of years ago, to help order his community of monks, yet the wisdom contained therein is timeless, and applies to all spiritual communities. In 2009

we will work to deepen our parish's spirituality by dipping into the spring of Benedictine tradition. Central to the rule are three major themes –

**Stability, Obedience, and Conversion of Life.** In my work with congregational development, I learned about the importance of the Benedictine tradition to Episcopal/Anglican spirituality and polity. The descriptions below come from The Rev. Robert A. Gallagher, creator of the Church Development Institute, (CDI), now based in Seattle, WA.

**Stability** has to do with finding God in the current relationships and circumstances of our life. It calls us into a deeper acceptance of self and others, and away from illusions drawing us into boredom, resentment, and a desire to escape. It calls us to learn about the grumbling of our hearts, about how and why we run from self, others and God.

Stability at St. John's is connected to our commitment to Manna Meal and to the city – we are a downtown parish that takes advantage of our location and seeks to open itself to the community around us.

**Obedience** has to do with listening – the root word “obedire” means “to listen.” We are called to find God in contemplative listening to others, self, and creation – and to respond in faith.

Our Lenten program this year, planned by our Full-Inclusion Task Force, will focus on listening and celebrating our differences.

**Conversion of Life** happens when we embrace stability and obedience. We are called to find God in the new – in changing relationships and circumstances. We are called to find joy in the new life, in what is, instead of weeping for the life that has passed or never was.

Our Vestry will work with this model of spirituality on our retreat as we look at the challenges and opportunities for ministry that are before us. Stay tuned for what new things may come out of our work together.

I invite all of you to join in this exploration of ancient wisdom to enrich our lives and ministry at St. John's. A Blessed New Year to you all.

*In Christ,*

## Many Thanks to All Secret Santas

By Jean Simpson, Manna Meal Director

Many thanks to all who participated in the Manna Meal Secret Santa this year. You helped put smiles on other wise sad faces.

One lady expressed to me that she had not received a Christmas gift since her parents died, over 25 years ago. A young family stood in disbelief with tears streaming down their cheeks.

A woman who eats at Manna Meal on a regular basis has finally gotten an apartment, a long process, but she made it. She was able to get the gas turned on, but does not have the money to turn on the electricity. She also has some furniture but looking for these items: one full bed and one twin bed, two dressers, four lamps, one couch and two chairs. So if anyone has or knows someone who has extra furniture, let me know.

A pressing issue that Manna Meal must address in 2009 is the needs of our kitchen. The kitchen was constructed in 1929 for an occasional social dinner and is not holding up to the demands of a commercial kitchen that produces 400 meals a day. As you all know we are undergoing major expenses due to collapsing sewer lines and obsolete equipment. The responsibility of this large project, along with our ministry, is shared between Manna Meal and St. John's Church. So please, we are looking for creative and clever ways to raise money. If anyone has ideas on grants or foundations that we can approach, please let me know. Bless you all for your love and kindness.

- [Jean\\_mannameal@verizon.net](mailto:Jean_mannameal@verizon.net)



Jean Simpson



Only about half of St. John's acolytes are shown in this photo, taken during a November training session. Current acolytes assisted with the training. Carrie Swing, co-director, front row left, poses with Evan Blackwood, Maddy Blackwood and Molly Blackwood.

## Acolytes to be Honored

In case you haven't noticed, our acolytes have been very busy recently. There were two Christmas Eve services (including one festival Eucharist) and a visitation by the Bishop. Our acolytes have risen to the various challenges and now it's time to honor them.

On Sunday, Jan.11, as part of the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, we will honor all 15 of our acolytes and formally present them with the crosses they will wear throughout the year.

At that service, you will see a diverse group of young people (we have representatives from five different high schools). They are, however, all dedicated to making our worship as beautiful as it can be.

Look in future issues of the *Interchange* for more information about our acolytes, and, in the meantime, join us Jan. 11.

## In Memoriam

We regret to note the passing of two longtime parishioners. Our former sexton, David Studivon, died Dec. 20 and his wife, Shirley Studivon, passed away on Dec. 27, 2008. A joint memorial service was held Jan. 3 at St. John's. *May light perpetual shine upon them.*

## St. John's Episcopal Church, Charleston, WV

Established 1837 ~ Present Building consecrated 1901 ~ A Jubilee Center since 1985

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The Rev. Susan J. Latimer Rector	Junior Warden	Maggie McCabe Evangelism / new member	Bob Swartz / Bob Miller Ushers
The Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson Associate Rector	Ellen Archibald '09 Treasurer	Michelle Walker Parish life	Warren Upton Chancellor
The Rev. Denise Giardina Deacon	Dan McDonald '10 Clerk	Donna Hamra / Mary Fitzgerald	Carter Blundon Altar Guild
Brenda Maurice Vanderford Organist / Choirmaster	Joe Bolyard '09	Outreach	Betty Jo Lloyd Worship Rota
David Morton Assisting Organist / Choirmaster	John Canfield, '11	Bob Cochran Stewardship	Janet Morris Archives
Brenda Dearien Parish Administrator	Cheryl Clements '10	Joe Mullins / Ann Morris Property	Robin Lester SAGA
Bob Westmoreland Verger	Linda Cooper '12	Diane Hendricks Confirmation	Martha Cole Registrar
Dan Williams Custodian	Page Hamrick '09	Marion Perry Adult Forum	Ann Garcelon The Back Door Thrift Shop
<u>Vestry</u>	Brian Hamra '11	Phyllis Atwood Pastoral Care	Julianne Kemp & Melora Cann Interchange co-editors
Becky Burns '09 Senior Warden	Leah Macia '12	Dianna Canfield / Carrie Swing Acolytes	
David Vick '10	Beth Marquart '11		
	Diane Masso '12		
	Bob Miller '10		
	Ray Shackelford '12		
	Parker Smith '11		
	David Ramkey Assistant treasurer		
	David Ramkey / Becky Burns Finance		

### Kenyan Friend to Visit

Isabel Mwangi, Project Director of Colors of Life Africa (remember the beautiful banana fiber Nativity sets you have purchased over the past few years?) will join us Sunday, Jan. 18. Isabel will share presentation time with Steve Day, missionary, at the Adult Forum at 9:30 a.m. You can also greet Isabel, who is visiting us from Nairobi, Kenya, during our reception for our new associate rector, Ann Lovejoy Johnson, at the coffee hour following the 10:30 service. C.O.L.A. has been chosen as the West Virginia Diocese's commitment to the Millennium Development Goals. For more information about Ms. Mwangi's schedule while in WV, please contact James Thibeault (389-3846).

### Did You Transfer Stock?

Did you give stock for 2008 or 2009 pledge in December? If so, please let Brenda Dearien know as soon as possible so it can be posted. She has two stock transfers but no names.

### Christmas Decorators Outdid Themselves

The big Christmas tree in St. John's sanctuary fell over three times, revealed Carter Blundon, Altar Guild director, but the setting was magical nevertheless. Many thanks go to Mary Knighton, Barbara Knight and Janet Morris, who decorated the trees, Augusta Kosowicz and Isabel Bukac, who trimmed the aisle candles, Forrest Akers, who did all the rest including pine roping and poinsettias, and Dan Williams, sexton, who came in on his day off despite being ill.

### Remember Our Deadline

The next issue of *Interchange* will be for the weeks of Jan. 25 and Feb. 1. Please submit any material you wish published to [julkemp@verizon.net](mailto:julkemp@verizon.net) or [bdearien@stjohnswv.org](mailto:bdearien@stjohnswv.org) by Monday, Jan. 19, at 2 p.m.