



Saint John's

Inter **C**hange

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Schedule for Worship

SUNDAYS NOVEMBER 16 AND 23, 2008
27TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
and **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

- 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, Nov. 16**, There will be no Adult Forum due to the annual parish meeting and election; **Nov. 23**, Dianna Masso, L.P.C. with the Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center, will discuss "Compassionate Communication," Room 109.
- 10:30 a.m. **Classes for toddlers through Grade 5:** Toddlers, Room 298; Godly Play, 1st to 2nd grades, Room 299; St. John's Eagles, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades, Room 221.
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall



St. John's Annual Parish Meeting is Nov. 16 at 9:15 a.m. in Hunter Hall.

Reminder: New and prospective members of St. John's will be the honored guests at an All-Parish Supper at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 9, in Hunter Hall. The event is being sponsored by the Evangelism and Member Incorporation Team. The parish will provide spaghetti and various sauces. Please bring a covered-dish or dessert to share, keeping in mind that some people have severe allergies to such ingredients as shellfish or any type of nut. A separate program for adults and children will be included.



A Message from Our Rector, the Rev. Susan J. Latimer

Dear Saints of John,

I am enjoying getting to know many of you as I continue to meet with committees, ministry groups, and as we break bread together at the Suppers with Susan (nine and counting!) These opportunities for fellowship are a joy for me, and I find that they also are helping to build an even stronger community here at St. John's, as people who don't know each other well are able to have conversation over a wonderful meal (and all the meals have been truly wonderful!). Thank you again to all the hosts. These suppers will go on after the first of the year, until all have had a chance to attend and/or host.

I continue to be delighted at the diversity and talent in our congregation! I am grateful again and again as I find how you are living out your baptismal vows in your daily work (paid or volunteer) in the community. If St. John's were to suddenly disappear from the world, it would be missed not only for Manna Meal and the numerous other outreach programs we support, but also for the innumerable ministries done by all of you, every day. It is wonderful to minister in a congregation that is such a central part of the ministry with the poor and oppressed in our city.

Last week I attended my first Diocesan convention, where again St. John's was a leader in the resolutions brought forward -- resolutions calling for dialogue and justice around issues of human sexuality, and recognition of an important ministry, COLA, as a millennium development project of the Diocese. All the resolutions passed in a slightly amended form. The process of amendment was reached through dialogue in the Deanery and on the floor of convention, and I was pleased at the process and the result. Your delegates, Brooks McCabe, Beth Hamrick and Michelle Walker, represented the congregation faithfully and well. Next year the convention will be in Charleston -- with an even greater opportunity for you to participate in some manner or another.

As we head into the last Sundays of Pentecost and prepare for Advent which begins Nov. 30, I give thanks to God for all of you and our shared ministry.

In Christ,

Susan
+



The *Interchange* is 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, West Virginia. ***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.

Please Remember Our Deadline: The next issue of Interchange will be for the weeks of Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Please submit articles and photos to bdearien@stjohnswv.org no later than Monday, Nov. 17, at 2 p.m.

Annual Parish Meeting and Vestry Election

St. John's Annual Parish Meeting is Nov. 16 at 9:15 a.m. in Hunter Hall. Breakfast will be provided. During the meeting parishioners elect new vestry members and delegates to the diocesan convention, receive a financial report, and hear a message from our rector. Child care will be available.

The nominating committee is pleased to present the following candidates for vestry. The candidates have each prepared a short statement about their activities at St. John's and their hope and dreams for the future of our parish. This year we will elect four new members.



Linda Cooper

I joined St. John's along with my husband, David, in 2006, having felt drawn to the Episcopal Church for a number of years. I had participated in two conferences sponsored by SAGA prior to 2006, which gave me an opportunity to learn about some of the wonderful works of St. John's members.

I then had the privilege of journeying closely with Dick Young during his illness and dying, and during those months, felt more strongly drawn to St. John's, because of what Dick taught and showed me about the church, and what I knew of the incredible works of the

members. During Dick's illness, I accompanied him closely, and a big part of that accompaniment was listening carefully to his wishes and desires as they related to St. John's. I served as his executrix, and managed his estate, which was left in large to continue the work of his most beloved St. John's. Since Dick's death, my participation in St. John's has been primarily to attend worship services and various wonderful functions.

My hopes and dreams for St. John's:

- ❖ St. John's will continue to provide a strong message of inclusivity, of God's love and grace for each person, and support and openness in its invitation for each member to participate actively in the work of the church.
- ❖ St. John's will sustain and grow abundant outreach ministries to the community, including its ongoing support of programs such as Manna Meal, Habitat for Humanity, Spokes for Folks, and prioritizing these efforts as God's mandate to each of us.

(Linda Cooper – continued)

❖ St. John's will continue to focus upon developing a solid Christian formation program for its youth and adults, including providing support and education to parents yearning to develop in their roles and build confidence as parents raising children in today's complex world.

❖ St. John's members will be able to always trust that in time of despair, whether attributable to illness, personal loss or chaos in our surrounding community, country or world, that there will be a response of comfort, understanding, and action from the church.

❖ St. John's will embrace this time of transition, supporting and acquainting ourselves with our new rector, and seeing this time as an opportunity to discern and be open to new possibilities that God may be calling us to consider.



Leah Perry Macia

I have been at St. John's 43 years. I have been in the choir intermittently since I was 8 years old, back when Brenda Vanderford was new to St. John's and directed the children's choir. I have been in the bell choir as well. I have taught music at Vacation Bible School, and directed a children's Christmas Eve musical production.

I have experienced St. John's as a cradle, a refuge, a lightning rod, a beacon of justice, a font of inspiration and an endless spring of love. My hope for Saint John's is that it continue and grow in its capacity to inspire, protect and nurture us all from the cradle, to the street, to the grave.

And as I grew up, all my life I've known that no matter where I'd gone, what I'd done or what my frame of mind was, I would find love, strength and deep happiness just on the other side of those red doors in the company of my fellow Saints of John.

My dream for St. John's is that it continue to be a powerful force for forging inspired and informed children, fortified by beauty, courage and integrity that is there to witness every day in the church and its members; that its mission to serve the least among us expand more with each passing year; and that it continue to resonate with the love, acceptance and joy that tethers us all to it and to one another.

(Leah Perry Macia – continued)

I know, however, that such joys do not spring from simple gossamer musings, but require instead hard work, nuts and bolts organization, and negotiation of differences. In my professional life I have extensive experience in matters of organizational governance, contract drafting, negotiation and advocacy to bring to bear in furthering St. John's mission. It would be my honor to do so as a member of the vestry.



Diana Masso

I began attending St. John's when I moved to Charleston in February, 2006, and I attended the times I came in to visit for job interviewing prior to my move as well. I was involved in Parish Life my first year, and later worked with Outreach as liaison for Covenant House, serving on the Charleston Interdenominational Council on Social Concerns (CSCIC) and once hosting their meeting at St. John's.

I also am Presenter and Facilitator Trainer (in training) for Contemplative Outreach of Charleston, and as such have presented an Introductory Workshop and follow-up sessions on Centering Prayer at St. John's (and at St. Timothy's). I presented a facilitator training event at St. John's for leaders in Contemplative Outreach from across the state, hosting a national level faculty member of Contemplative Outreach Ltd. I also hosted a United in Prayer Day two years ago for Contemplative Outreach at St. John's for anyone interested in Centering Prayer.

I have been involved with SAGA since I came to St. John's, and now serve on the Executive Committee. As such, I coordinate the education and outreach of SAGA activities within the outer community, attending the Episcopal conventions, Pride events, and others as invited.

The words that keep coming to mind about my hopes and dreams for St. John's are simply "love one another." I realize that might sound a little pretentious, but as I age I find that scriptural admonition to be one that permeates my days more and more. I experience St. John's as living that scriptural way of grace, some ways more visibly and others more behind the scenes. My hope for St. John's is that its members would continue, with perseverance, doing the good works that they have begun. Building on strengths is a model that I believe works well for growth, and St. John's has many -- commitment to the Gospel, beauty and

Diana Masso – continued)

power in worship, compassion in outreach, and generosity in support through time, talent and treasure. My dream for St. John's is that growth in relationships, as living members of the Body of Christ, will be addressed with courage, honesty and commitment.



Elizabeth B. Nix (Liz Nix)

I have been a member of St. John's since 1968 and have been treasurer of the Op Shop for the past 35 years. Quentin and I were married at St. John's in July, 2008. Quentin and I attend Bible Study, Adult Forum and Sunday worship services.

I support the focus on the Children's Christian Formation program with the hope that it will attract new families to St. John's. Also, we need to continue with outreach programs and the recognition of diversity of the St. John's congregation. Now retired, I hope that my work skills as a former social worker, financial manager of the Women's Health Center and owner of Roderick's Painting & Papering Service will be useful in serving on the vestry.



Ray D. Shackelford

I've been a member of St. John's since 1995. I'm an active member of the choir and the Taize program. I've also been trained as a group facilitator with Sewanee, The University of the South, and have facilitated various groups here at St. John's. Occasionally you will see me filling the role of lector.

In my professional life I'm a fully-licensed insurance agent, and I'm a small business owner of "SO-Lux," a soy candle company. This year I've been witness to the generosity and care from the Saints of John during the recent death of my partner's sister. This has kindled a deep desire within to serve on the vestry. I want to have the opportunity to serve and make a difference in our church as well as our community. I believe we have an exciting year ahead of us with Susan as

our new rector. I believe my life experience and my love for people qualify me to serve in this very important role.



Shonda Toler

In 2006, my friend, Kathie Giltinan, invited me to attend a service at St. John's. After my first visit, I knew this would be my new church home. I had never felt more welcome than I did at St. John's. My teenage son, Jackson, immediately became involved with the Rite 13 group. Kathie asked for my help with the youth activities in the church. I have worked the St. Nicholas Day and the Christingle party the past two years.

In 2007, I was asked to chair the Children's Christian Formation committee, and I accepted. I have been active in the planning for Bible School. I recently became involved with the Outreach committee after attending U2charist with them in Huntington. I organized the church's trip to the Power Park this summer. In May my son and I were confirmed.

I am an outreach coordinator for a socially necessary services agency and I teach adult education for Kanawha County Schools. Having come from a background where people are many times in desperate need of food and resources, I can truly appreciate our many outreach programs including Manna Meal and Spokes for Folks.

Photos of vestry candidates by Betty Jo



Convention Delegation Also to be Chosen

Also to be elected are three delegates and one alternate to the 2009 Diocesan Convention to be held in Charleston Oct. 2-4, 2009.

Candidates for these posts are:

Beth Hamrick

Brooks McCabe

Beth Marquart

Michelle Walker

St. John's Episcopal Church, Charleston, WV

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

The Rev. Susan J. Latimer
Rector

The Rev. Denise Giardina
Deacon

Brenda Maurice Vanderford
Organist / Choirmaster

David Morton
Assisting Organist /
Choirmaster

Brenda Dearien
Parish Administrator

Bob Westmoreland
Verger

Dan Williams
Custodian

Vestry

Becky Burns '09
Senior Warden
David Vick '10
Junior Warden

Ellen Archibald '09

Treasurer

Dan McDonald '10
Clerk

Joe Bolyard '09
John Canfield, '11
Cheryl Clements '10
Page Hamrick '09
Brian Hamra '11
Beth Marquart '11
Bob Miller '10
Parker Smith '11

David Ramkey
Assistant treasurer

David Ramkey /
Becky Burns
Finance

Maggie McCabe
Evangelism / new member

Michelle Walker
Parish life

Donna Hamra

/

Mary Fitzgerald
Outreach

Bob Cochran
Stewardship

Joe Mullins/Ann Morris
Property

Children's Christian
Formation

Diane Hendricks
Confirmation

Marion Perry
Adult Forum

Phyllis Atwood
Pastoral Care

Dianna Canfield /
Carrie Swing
Acolytes

Bob Swartz / Bob Miller
Ushers

Warren Upton
Chancellor

Carter Blundon
Altar Guild

Betty Jo Lloyd
Worship Rota

Janet Morris
Archives

Robin Lester
SAGA

Martha Cole
Registrar

Ann Garcelon
The Back Door
Thrift Shop

Julianne Kemp
& Melora Cann
Interchange co- editors

Suppers with Susan

We've scheduled three more suppers and one luncheon with Susan Latimer for the month of November. This makes a total of 11 meals shared so far. We'll be taking a brief hiatus for Advent and will start up again after the New Year. Many thanks to the 25 people who have offered to host (we'll get to each and every one of you!), and the many saints who are willing guests. If you didn't sign up to host or be a guest, please check in with Dwight Foley or Beth Marquart.

Thanksgiving Service

A wonderful way to count your blessings would be to attend the Thanksgiving Day service at St. John's at 10:30 a.m. The office will be closed on Thursday and Friday.

Rector to Address SAGA

The Straight & Gay Alliance (SAGA) meets the second Sunday of each month at noon in Room 209. On Nov. 9 the Rev. Susan J. Latimer will be our speaker. Please make plans to attend. A light lunch will be served.