

Saint John's

Inter Change

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Say Farewell to Our Rector

The Parish Life Committee will provide light refreshments and desserts after the 10:30 a.m. service on Oct. 9. Please join us as we say farewell to Rector Susan Latimer and her family and wish them well in their new calling.

"The Courage of Hope" A Senior Moment

by *Steve Chionsini Jr.*
Senior Warden

As I sit here in Tiberius overlooking the Sea of Galilee, I have a new sense of hope and optimism for our parish.

Saint John's is a place of beauty - just look around to see something you have never noticed before. Whether it is our stained-glass windows, our needlepoint kneelers, or the incredible hangings that change with the season, we celebrate God's Word in the best of environments.

I believe that we have all the right ingredients to make a huge impact on our community, and on each other, but in certain respects we continue to have one foot stuck in the past. We are a warm, welcoming and inclusive community - these are in our collective DNA. We are a place of healing and spiritual growth, and a place that loves to socialize. We love our music, and we do it so well!

In spite of these great things, I am saddened by what we have done to each other and what we have failed to do for our Lord. We say every Sunday "We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves and we humbly repent", but we haven't been doing that very well.

(Continued on page 3)

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP

SUNDAYS OCTOBER 2, 9, 16, 23 AND 30, 2011

FIFTEENTH THROUGH NINETEENTH SUNDAYS AFTER PENTECOST

- 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
- 8:45 a.m. Lectionary Study and Group Discussion, library
- 9:00 a.m. Nursery open for infants to age 5, Room 297 (See page 4 for Youth Classes schedule)
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum, Room 109 (see program listings below)
- 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, with choir
- 11:30 a.m. Coffee Hour, Hunter Hall
- 5:00 p.m. Oct. 16, Taize Service, chapel

Please note: The Come As You Are services, held twice monthly, have been suspended until further notice.

Adult Forum Programs:

- Oct. 2, Dr. Robert G. Newman, Professor Emeritus, University of Charleston, will speak on "Islam."
- Oct. 9, No Adult Forum due to the farewell reception for Rector Susan J. Latimer and family.
- Oct. 16, Parishioner Beth Marquart will speak on "Episcopal Same Gender Blessings."
- Oct. 23, Jennifer Miller, VIP Project Manager, and Christy Fidler, Volunteer Services Director, both of CAMC, will give a program on "Hospital Volunteerism."
- Oct. 30, The Rev. Lawton Posey will speak on "Saints Alive."

✠ 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.



A Letter of Farewell

By The Rev. Susan J. Latimer

Dear People of St. John's,

As most of you now know, I announced on Sunday Sept. 11 that I have accepted the Call to become the Rector of St. Catherine of Alexandria Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. I am now in the midst of saying my goodbyes to you. Oct. 9 will be my last Sunday at St. John's.

Your Bishop and Vestry will be working together in the weeks to come toward whatever the next steps will be for St. John's.

I am grateful for the way that God has sustained us in our journey together. I trust that God will continue to strengthen St. John's in the coming days. You will remain in my prayers, and I welcome your prayers. I am grateful for the opportunity to minister with you these past three years.

*In Christ,
Susan+*

Mentoring Children on the West Side

By Mary Anne Maul

Through the Outreach Committee, Rev. Matthew Watts invites members of St. John's to volunteer to mentor or sponsor children for mentoring on the West Side. Using the "HOPE-TALKS" program, mentors meet weekly to read to and talk with 3-5 pre-screened children in a public school with security and support, as needed.

Mentors in these structured sessions read the book "Stories my [Mother or Father] Never Told Me" to discuss the text and memorize quotes. Mentors can chose to share their personal experiences growing up. The program takes a "business" approach to protect mentors from "replacing" parents, financial pressures, needing any special skills, time overload and any ethical issues.

The goals of mentoring are to systematically encourage and counsel children, partner with parents and schools and to engage children to improve their grades, rather than succumb to negative influences in their world. The American Federation of Teachers recently recognized the new West Side Elementary School and the Rev. Watts' program as an innovative community school partnership. "HOPE-TALKS" mentoring has been used in public schools nationwide for boys since 1993, and was recently adapted for girls.

Mentors are asked to fill out an application, undergo a background check, attend a one-hour training and meet the children's families at a reception. The time commitment of 20-60 minutes a week should last for the school year, either before or after school, while the cost to sponsor a child is \$25.

Already, St. John's has pledged 14 scholarships and recruited one mentor, and one member has taken the orientation. Contact Bonita at Hope Community Development Corporation at 304-343-4673 or by email hopewdc@aol.com, if you are interested in mentoring or sponsoring children.. Their website is www.talksmentoring.com.

In Memoriam

St. John's recently lost two longtime parishioners.

We regret to note the death of Martha Miller on Sept. 4. Her funeral and inurnment in the columbarium were held Sept. 8 at St. John's.

Also, parishioner Philip DuPont died Aug. 20 in Charlottesville, VA. A memorial service will be held Oct. 8 at St. John's.

May light perpetual shine upon them.

The Courage of Hope - A Senior Moment *continued from page 1*

It seems our collective psyche often gets stuck on issues from the past that truly should be now issues of the past. Often we seem to be just a step away from greatness, but we never get there as if we are stuck in a rut from the past. I know this is not what we want, and I now believe that great things lie ahead for us.



Steve Chionsini

We are at a new beginning that will lead us to a level of greatness never before achieved. It is time for the Saints of John to rise to a new level. We need to get out of our comfort zone and be the best we can be to each other and the community.

Yesterday at Cana, couples renewed their wedding vows, and we all renewed our baptismal covenant. Because of your support (emotional, financial, physical, and spiritual), and because our God has wonderful plans for us, it is time for us to renew our baptismal covenant with the Lord and each other.

Tomorrow I will be baptized in the river Jordan. My prayer is that I emerge a different person with a greater faith for my Lord and the future of our parish. This is my prayer for each of you also.

*In service to Christ,
Steve Chionsini, Jr., Senior Warden*

~ 2012 Stewardship Campaign ~

“See What’s Right with St. John’s”

Over the years at St. John’s we have heard so much about why we need to give our money to the church. Most of our conversations have been around our annual budget. What do we need by way of financial giving to meet the budget for next year? There is so much more to “stewardship” than the mere idea of pledging for the sake of the “budget.”

Why do we give? Much has been said about the idea of giving out of a sense of obligation to scripture. I don’t know about you, but I’m somewhat

turned off by someone telling me to give because the Bible says so. I believe as Episcopalians and members of St. John’s we have a clearer idea of our sense of commitment to scripture. At St. John’s we have been a church guided by a sense of mission to the world and our community. I guess you could interpret this to mean that we are following the scriptures message of giving. However I think we give for a much more infinite reason. We give out of a sense of gratitude. We give in the knowledge that God will use these temporary, finite resources to build relationships with each other and, yes, to build the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

Our Stewardship Campaign this year is centered on the theme of “**Celebrating What’s Right with St. John’s.**” It’s a call to reflect in our own personal lives the blessings we have as members of St. John’s and as Saints of our Lord Jesus Christ. It’s an opportunity to celebrate this by giving of our time and financial resources to further the ministry and mission of St. John’s.

There are two very important dinners scheduled for St. John’s. These dinners are a time to come together to “**Celebrate all that is good with St. John’s**” and to fellowship together as a family of God. We have scheduled these dinners for Saturday, Oct. 8, and Saturday, Oct. 15. It’s our hope that one of these evenings will work in your schedule. Please come and enjoy a wonderful dinner, fellowship and an award winning documentary film presentation about celebrating what’s right with the world. I believe this will be a wonderful experience and a very memorable way to discover how much we all have to be grateful for.



Ray Shackelford

Also I want to invite you to an experience of sharing all that is good with St. John’s in a blog site www.seethegoodatstjohns.wordpress.com. This can really be an inspiration to this congregation as we rediscover our mission and understand that there is so much good around us.

For questions about the dinner and / or the stewardship campaign, please contact either Ray Shackelford at seethegoodatstjohns@gmail.com or 304-552-5382 or David Ramkey at 304-343-3497 or dramkey@wvdiocese.org. May God bless us and fill us with gratitude.

Your Treasurer, Ray D. Shackelford

Christian Formation for Children and Youth

New Altar Servers Trained

By Carrie Swing

Three acolytes have been added to the St. John's acolyte altar server list. These acolytes -- Evan and Molly Blackwood and Dominique Tyson -- received their training on Sunday, Sept. 25.

Altar servers are those who assist the clergy with setting the altar for the Eucharist. This job is reserved to senior high school acolytes who have demonstrated faithful service because of the detail involved with this job. Congratulations to Dominique, Evan and Molly!

Photos by Carrie Swing

The Young
Saints of
John

Our Sunday Schedule

Nursery
(Infants – age 5)
Room 297
Each Sunday
from 9:00 a.m.
to 12 noon

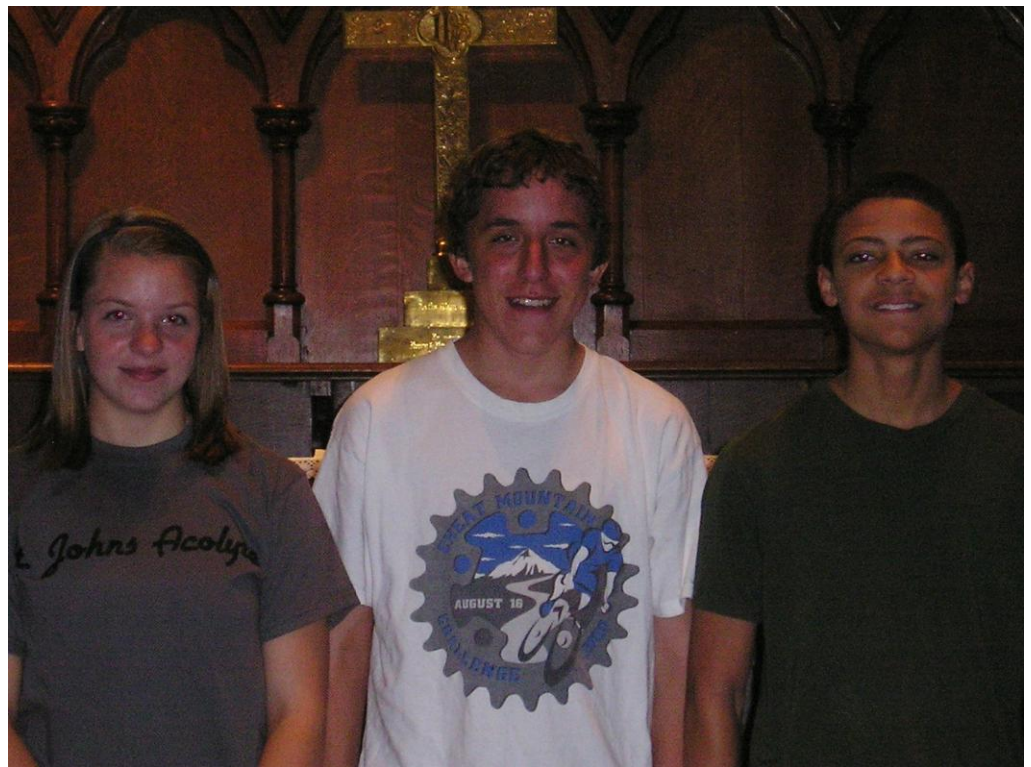
Godly Play
(Grades PK- 6)
Room 298
Each Sunday
at 9:15 a.m.

**Journey to
Adulthood Program**
Meets twice monthly,
as scheduled:
At 9:00 a.m.

Rite 13 (Grades 7 & 8)
Room 224
J2A (Grades 9 & 10)
Third Floor

**Youth Schedule for
Rite 13 & J2A:**
October 9 & 23

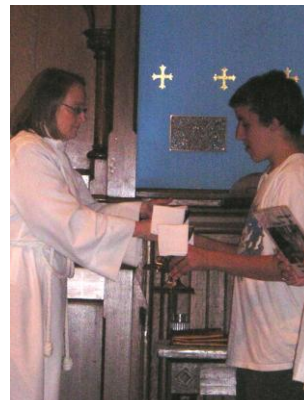
For more information
contact the church
office at 304-346-0359



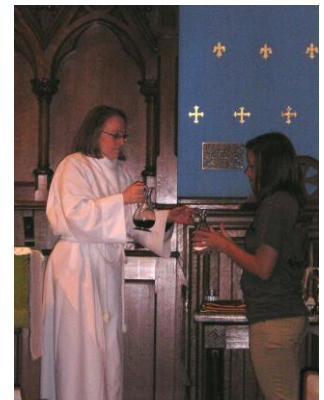
St. John's newest Altar Servers Molly Blackwood, Evan Blackwood and Dominique Tyson



Dominique Tyson
practices with the
chalices



Evan Blackwood with the
Rev. Ann Lovejoy Johnson



Molly Blackwood practices
with the cruets holding the
wine and water

Acolytes Have New T-Shirts

St. John's acolytes are now carrying the message of their faithful service all over the Charleston area. They do that every time they wear their brand-new acolyte T-shirts.

On the front, these shirts read, "St. John's Acolyte." On the back, "Playing with fire since 1837." Anyone can spread our message. Shirts are available for the low cost of \$10 each. These would make wonderful stocking stuffers for former acolytes. Contact Carrie Swing, 744-9008, or cpswing@aol.com.



Catherine, Evan, Molly and Maddy Blackwood model the brand-new St. John's acolyte t-shirt. Photo by Carrie Swing

Fellowship Group Continues

As our parish enters yet another stage of transition, the Fellowship Group remains open to all. Meetings will continue to be held on second and fourth Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Molly Warwick Room. Please call Diane Hendricks at 344-9916 or Una Karner at 346-7143 for more information. Next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m.

Interested in Going to Cuba?

By Mary Anne Maul

For several years, Outreach Committee members have mused about taking a church mission trip to Cuba. In January, President Obama announced that travel restrictions would be relaxed to encourage "people-to-people" visits. This spring, the Treasury Department issued rules for licenses requiring advance, full-time schedules of approved activities for groups, travelers to carry letters of authorization signed by supervising entities in the U.S. responsible for compliance.

Outreach Committee members asked me to plan a trip, but I cannot do this alone and need your help if we are to realize this project. I am asking parishioners who have contacts with Cubans or Cuban organizations to ask them if they can help identify work for us to do or things we should learn." Given the country is now Communist, we should expand our purpose beyond strictly religious concerns to include other approved purposes including humanitarian or charitable projects and study, on the advice of Ann Garcelon.

Thanks to Esber Tweel, Lynn Clarke, Gardner Stultz, Janet Robertson, and Frank and Leila Martin, who have already agreed to help answer certain questions. If you would like more information, go to <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/sanctions/Programs/Pages/cuba.aspx>. If you want to help, contact me at maryannemaul@yahoo.com.



School girls in Cuba

Covenant House Celebrating 30th Year

(In honor of Covenant House's three-decade anniversary this month, we reprint the following article from a 2006 edition of Interchange.)

How Covenant House Came To Be

By Julianne Kemp

Longtime Charlestonians may remember that a white frame boarding house - the Hudnall house at 1107 Quarrier St. - was where our parking lot is today. And next to that, at 1109 Quarrier St., was the Bibby property, purchased by St. John's in 1972 and leased to Spaulding Opticians.

Thanks to some extensive research through Vestry minutes and church bulletins by Janet Morris, church archivist, we are able to trace the history of these two properties.

Through a generous gift, we acquired the Hudnall property in 1968. At first, part of the first floor was used for a youth coffee house (85 attended the first night on July 21, 1968) and our thrift shop, the Opportunity Shop, had its beginning on the remainder of the first floor. Lack of staff caused the closing of the coffee shop in October. In 1971, the Opportunity Shop was given use of the former lawnmower shop at the back of the Hudnall house which was demolished in 1972.

Vestry notes for Jan. 13, 1977, were the first indication of plans for the development of a plan and program of downtown ministry to transient people that would utilize 1109 Quarrier St.

On Aug. 15, 1980, 1109 was recommended as the focal point for a downtown ministry. An Interdenominational Council on Social Concerns was formed and represented an agreement to the concept of an ecumenical urban ministry in which 17 churches and synagogues were represented.

In October 1980, the Vestry decided to no longer rent 1109 as commercial property. The rear portion of the property was to become an apartment to house the new urban ministers. In November, the Charleston Interdenominational Council named the property Covenant House. The little green house owned by St. John's was leased to the project for \$1 a year. It was badly in need of estimated renovations of \$100,000. Donations of materials poured in. A roof was donated by the Thalheimer Family from Temple Israel and built by prison labor under the supervision of Milford Ziegler who worked for Gov. Gaston Caperton as director of Community Service.

The first group to occupy a portion of Covenant House was Kanawha Hospice in December 1980.

Two sisters of Notre Dame, Barbara Ferraro and Patricia Hussey, were hired in May 1981 as Covenant House's new ministers, to begin their work in late August 1981. In the meantime, Pat Perlman of Christ Church United Methodist coordinated work of volunteers from March through August of that year. The property was completely renovated and opened Sept. 28, 1981.

West Virginia Health Right was established there in August 1982. From that beginning, Covenant House grew through Ferraro and Hussey's guidance until in 2001, a new 13,000-square foot facility opened on Shrewsbury Street as a collaborative effort of 35 congregations of various faiths. Programs help more than 30,000 people a year in 32 counties.

People may drop in for a safe place to shower, do laundry, make telephone calls, receive mail, obtain counseling or get emergency assistance with rent, utilities, travel or medicine. For further assistance they are referred to a clothing closet at St. Mark's United Methodist or a food pantry at First Presbyterian Church. As a separate organization, they also are aided by Manna Meal, which was incorporated as a soup kitchen in November 1978 at St. John's.

After 25 years, co-directors Ferraro and Hussey will be leaving their posts in late 2006 to return to their native New England. The legacy they leave behind is a fund-raising campaign, "Renewing the Covenant," to raise \$2.5 million for an endowment fund to combat social injustices.

Today, 1109 Quarrier St. houses the thrift shop, now named The Back Door, and formerly the Charleston AIDS network and the Diocesan Bookstore. But in retrospect, 1980 should be remembered as the year that St. John's made the historic move to give church property to the Charleston Interdenominational Council for Social Concerns for the establishment of Covenant House.

Note: Since this article appeared, Covenant House has had two directors who succeeded Ferraro and Hussey - Amy Weintraub and Melissa Doty - and is searching for a new director.

Early Deadline Next Issue

Due to upcoming Halloween festivities, the deadline for the November issue will be Monday, Oct. 24, at 2 p.m. Please send photos and/or items to julkemp@yahoo.com or bdearien@stjohnswv.org. Thanks for your cooperation.



Manna Meal – “so the hungry can eat”

Photo (far left): The new kitchen is quite a blessing. We were never able to take advantage of all the fresh vegetables that came into the kitchen. The new tilt skillets can do anything. You can boil, roast, bake and fry in these new skillets. What a dream come true. Melissa Borst & Deanna Peterson roasting fresh garden vegetables in the new tilt skillets.

Photo (left): Leila Martin arranging the flowers she and Judy Lewis picked out of the Manna Meal flower garden. In the spring of 2010, the MM garden committee expanded the community garden 20' x 50' and added flowers. Our plan was to sell flowers at fundraising events. With Leila's talents we have raised around \$100 with not much effort.

Please note director Jean Simpson's new email address: jsmannaMeal@wirefire.com.

Leaf Peepers Head for Hawk's Nest

The women of St. John's Episcopal Church will meet in the parking lot of the church on Oct. 13 at 10:30 a.m. to carpool to Hawk's Nest State Park for lunch at the lodge and a look at the fall splendor at the overlook of the New River Gorge. If you are daring you may ride the cable cars to the bottom of the gorge and view the river at close hand and/or ride the paddle boats. There is also a hiking trail near the lodge, which leads to the picnic area on the river. Please call Brenda Dearien at 304 346-0359 for reservations.

Taize Prayer

The first Taize service of the season will take place on Sunday, Oct. 16, in the chapel. All are welcome to this half hour of prayer, song and silence.

Celebrate October Birthdays

Pray for the lives and ministries of those celebrating October birthdays: Oct. 1, Jim Lewis; Oct. 2, Thomas Brown; Oct. 3, Christian Rowe; Oct. 4, John Barrett; Oct. 5, Bonnie Brown; Oct. 6, James Thibeault; Oct. 7, Bonnie Holmes; Oct. 8, Erin Brewster; Oct. 9, Robert Cochran; Oct. 10, Elliott Perry; Oct. 12, Sara Birkhead; Oct. 13, Elliott Birkhead; Oct. 15, Mechelle Singh; Oct. 16, Alexandra Macia, Blaine Mullins and Sara Wright; Oct. 17, Wesley Goodwin and Mildred Howie; Oct. 18, Lew Cole; Oct. 21, Tim Richards; Oct. 23, Wayne Eich and Sara Walker; Oct. 24, Dale Snyder; Oct. 25, Olivia Jefferds; Oct. 26, Patti Bartlett, Joe Caudill, Betty Hamilton and Margaret Lieberman; Oct. 28, Maggie Morris; Oct. 30, Allison Hendricks, and Oct. 31, Ben Dettinger.

Goodies Needed for High Tea

High Tea will follow Evensong on Oct. 30. As always, your contributions of finger foods or desserts will be greatly appreciated.

Thanks to Reception Helpers

A heartfelt thank you goes out to the following people for their help in making Marion Perry's reception on Sept. 18 successful: Janet Morris, Mary Knighton, Mary Coburn, Patty Bartlett, Barbara Walker and, of course, as always Jean Simpson and her dedicated staff. I appreciated the help of all who brought food and helped in any way. -- *Sincerely, Georgia Hamra*

Kroger and Outreach A Winning Team!

For the past two years, Outreach has received money from our supporters using their Kroger cards. So far, we have received over \$6,000 from Kroger to help fund Outreach projects! So use your Kroger card while you're shopping for those tasty tailgate treats and drinks during football season.

Also, Manna Meal needs powdered milk, canned meats (tuna, chicken, Vienna sausages, etc.) and canned or packaged soups. Add these items to your shopping list and support Manna Meal and Outreach at the same time – *it's a Win-Win!*

Reception to Honor New Couple

A reception will be held Saturday, Oct. 1, at 6:30 p.m. in Hunter Hall to honor Jackson Newsome and Justin Stewart who were married Sept. 23 in Niagara Falls, Ontario. Dinner will be served and music will be provided by Carrie Swing.

For more information or to make reservations, call Shonda Toler at 304 382-3590.

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. Ann Lovejoy Johnson
Associate Rector

Brenda Maurice Vanderford
Organist/Choirmaster

David Morton
Assisting Organist/Choirmaster

Brenda Dearien
Parish Administrator

Bob Westmoreland
Verger

Dan Williams
Custodian

Vestry

Steve Chionsini Jr. '12
Senior Warden

Bob Miller '13
Junior Warden

Ray Shackelford '12
Treasurer

Michelle Walker '13
Clerk

Leah Macia '12
Sallie Milam '12
Diane Hendricks '13

Bren Pomponio '13
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Una Karner '14

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Assistant Treasurer

Steve Chionsini Jr.
& **David Ramkey**
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Becky Burns
Parish life

Donna Hamra
Outreach

Evangelism/New Member
Vestry Liaison
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Mike Klausing
Property

Barbara Walker
Adult Forum

Carrie Swing
Acolytes

Bob Miller
Ushers

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Carter Blundon
Altar Guild

Betty Jo Lloyd
Worship Rota

Janet Morris
Archives

SAGA

Martha Cole
Registrar

Ann Garcelon
The Back Door
Thrift Shop

Julianne Kemp
& **Melora Cann**
Interchange
Co-Editors



Marion Passes the Torch

The surrounding photos depict a reception on Sept. 18 honoring Marion Perry who has retired from 16-plus years as director of the Adult Forum. Thanks for a dedicated and outstanding job, Marion! Barbara Walker has agreed to take on the leadership and welcomes any suggestions for future speakers.

