Fall blew into St. John’s with a gust of activity and we thought it might be good to pause and reflect on all that has happened already this year. Between August and November, St. John’s welcomed the lively voices and sweet faces of Crocus Hill Preschool to the church, held a successful HUGE SALE, blessed animals at the St. Francis Day Celebration, launched a stewardship campaign, celebrated All Saints Sunday, enjoyed a highly competitive Chili Cookoff, and accepted two awards!
FROM THE REVEREND JERED WEBER-JOHNSON

Dear Friends in Christ,

Often the world seems to know little of hope—a notion rarely part of the evening news, a word cheapened by politicians and advertising, and disregarded as useless sentimentality by many. Perhaps this is because we are a world ever drawn toward youth, and, as G.K. Chesterton once wrote, hope is “the only gift not given to youth.” He says,

*It is currently said that hope lends to youth its wings of a butterfly; but I fancy that hope is the last gift given to man... the power of hoping through everything, the knowledge that the soul survives its adventures, that great inspiration comes to the middle-aged; God has kept that good wine until now. It is from the backs of the elderly gentlemen that the wings of the butterfly should burst... They have seen the end of the End of the World.*

Hope is coming to those whom we might not first expect—not just the elderly, but to many whom our culture and world would deem unlikely. We should not be surprised, for we know hope; it is in our faith’s vernacular. Hope is a watchword for the season we are entering, as we await the Advent of the Lord in our midst, and the story of the peasant baby born in Bethlehem. Hope is in the history of beleaguered people in Israel, oppressed by the Romans, awaiting a messiah to deliver them from distress. Hope is there, for the hungry and the poor, in the belief that relief and nourishment are in front of them—a vision of the future, which sustains them through the present. Hope visits Elizabeth and Zechariah, older and childless, in the promise that they will have a child, John the Baptist, our narrator in this season, a prophet who will turn people back to God and make ready for the coming of the Lord.

And, hope comes to such as these because, as Chesterton writes, they have seen the end. They have looked beyond what is and seen a promise of something brighter and something greater—“that the soul survives its great adventures.” At the presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple, Simeon, an elder, who had been given a revelation by the Spirit that before his death he would see the Messiah, greets the holy family, and upon seeing the baby, takes him into his arms and utters these words, known for their use at Evensong:

> Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
> according to thy word;  
> For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,  
> which thou hast prepared before the face of all people,  
> To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
> and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

We are called to be a people of hope, not a naïve hope of youth, nor the shallow hope built by comfort and power, but the hope of those who have seen ‘the end of the End of the World’ and in it, the promise of salvation and the presence of God. May we hope for such as this, and seek after it this Advent and always.

See you in church.

Faithfully,
From the Reverend Kate Bradtmiller

Dear Friends in Christ,

I write this letter with two babies asleep in my lap. Ruth and Paul were born September 29th, and our family is well and thriving. The babies are growing and changing, and Louisa and I are learning from them how to be mothers.

My world has a monastic feel now; nursing follows the same rhythm and discipline as that centuries old tradition of worship. For monks and nuns, the services of Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline come every three hours in a ceaseless murmuring of prayers. Nursing shares the Divine Office’s repetition and focus on something larger than yourself. It is also the longest period of enforced stillness I have ever experienced. My previous practice of daily meditation pales compared to eight to ten hours of nourishing infants. My prayer beads are nearby, and as sleep deprivation allows, I pray: for my family, for those who are sick, for people around the world.

Having our children is an unimaginable gift; Louisa and I waited to meet them for a long time. Having this space to pray is an unexpected blessing. The invitation to pray without ceasing is not one I ever accepted as possible, aside from my usual "remember to take a deep breath and let God in." It surprises me that in this transition, when I have less time for myself, I have more time to listen for God. Neither parenting nor such regular prayer come without challenges, but the journey is deeply exciting.

I am also more grateful than ever for the prayers and care of others. Our family, our friends, Louisa’s colleagues, and this community of St. John’s have all been incredibly supportive, resourceful, and loving as we focus on caring for Ruth and Paul. I expect to rejoin you all for worship sometime in Advent, as you receive this Evangelist, and I will return to the office before Epiphany. I hope to continue conversations about prayer and care for one another with our community of St. John’s in this new church year.

Faithfully yours,
Kate

Vestry Members
Bob Baumann, Clerk of Vestry
Kathy Brown, Membership
Marilyn Conkin, Music
Tricia Durst, Fellowship
Mary Gilbertson, At Large
Phyllis Goff, At Large
Tony Grundhauser, Stewardship
Rex Haberman, At Large
Gary Hagstrom, At Large
Jennifer Kinkead, Faith in Action
Anneke Krall, Formation
Suzanne McInroy, At Large
Don Postema, Junior Warden
Rick Rinkoff, Treasurer
Libby Snelson, Senior Warden
Jerry Woelfel, Personnel

Volunteer Positions
Artaria String Quartet, Artists in Residence
Phillip Baird, Verger
Alden Drew, Historian/Archivist
Paige Hagstrom, Coffee Hour Coordinator
Jim Johnson, Planned Gift Chair
Dusty Mairs, Parish Coordinator
Diane Power, Altar Guild
George Power, Columbarium
Jill Thompson, Lay Reader Coordinator

Clergy
The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson, Rector
The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller, Associate Rector
The Reverend S. Grayson Clary, Rector Emeritus
The Reverend Barbara Mraz, Deacon

Staff
Lizza Berry, Youth and Children Choirs Director
Sarah Dull, Office Administrator
Jayson Engquist, Director of Music and Organist
Kate Graber, Handbell Choir Director
Jean Hansen, Youth and Family Minister
Lia Hansen, Nursery Supervisor
John Oldfield, Office of the Treasurer
Judy Stack-Nelson, Faith Formation & Education Specialist
Chris Tegeler, Building Manager
Longkee Vang, Youth Ministry Assistant
Dunfa Weretti, Building Assistant
St. John’s Sunday Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Worship Calendar

Year A1

(December 1, 2013 - March 2, 2014)

Advent2 December 1st, 8th, 15th, & 22nd
- Rite I sung Eucharist, Prayer 2, blue vestments and adornments, wafers

Christmastide & Epiphany
- December 24th – Christmas Eve Festal Rite II sung Eucharist, Prayer C, festal white vestments and adornments, real bread
- 25th – Rite II spoken Eucharist, Prayer C, white vestments and adornments, real bread
- January 5th – Epiphany Sunday4 Rite II sung Eucharist, Prayer C, white vestments and adornments, real bread (lectionary and collect are those set for the Feast of the Epiphany, January 6th, and not for the second Sunday after Christmas)
- 12th – Baptism of Our Lord Sunday, baptisms, Rite II sung Eucharist, Prayer C, white vestments and adornments, real bread
- January 19th & 26th; February 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd; March 2nd – Rite II sung Eucharist, Prayer C, white vestments and adornments, real bread

1 Year A – Sunday scripture lessons are broken into three, 1 year cycles (A, B, & C). Themes are similar year to year, but the lectionary approaches each from a different book or a different author’s perspective.

2 Advent – Each liturgical year begins anew in the season of Advent—December 1st this year. Advent is a season of expectant waiting for the Nativity of our Lord, and focuses on preparation and repentance. This season’s Scripture lessons often take on an urgency and even apocalyptic tone.

3 Prayer 2 – The 1979 Book of Common Prayer has more options for Eucharist than any prior American prayer book. Rite I, the more traditional language Eucharist, provides Prayer 1 and 2. Rite II, the more contemporary language Eucharist, provides A, B, C, and D. Each Eucharistic prayer offers a different theological perspective on the actions of the sacrament, and allows worshippers to meditate on Holy Communion in a different way.

4 Epiphany Sunday – The church can sometimes break from a prescribed Sunday “proper” to transfer a non-Sunday feast to the Sunday nearest it so the congregation can celebrate a principal feast when most parishioners can attend. In this case, Epiphany bumps the second Sunday after Christmas.

Vestry Musings

by Don Postema

In addition to its regular monthly meetings in October and November, your Vestry spent the evening of November 1 and morning of November 2 at its Fall Retreat. We traveled to the Undercroft, enjoyed a delightful evening of good food and conversation with members of the Strategic Planning Committee, and prepared for serious involvement in the Strategic Planning process on Saturday. We focused on six key areas: Liturgy & Music, Faith Formation, Financial Sustainability, New Member Welcoming & Integration, Programming, and Building & Infrastructure. At the Annual Meeting, in January 2014, the completed Strategic Plan will be unveiled to the parish, a vision to lead us in the next 3 to 5 years. Reflective, innovative, generous, deliberate, creative, energizing – these are the emerging features of the Strategic Plan for St. John’s as we seek to serve Christ together.

The Vestry is committed to finishing the 2014 Stewardship Campaign by December 1, 2013 so that we can plan a realistic budget for 2014 in a timely manner and avoid the overlap of the Pledge Drive with Advent. Vestry members were trained in the ways of contacting parish members to recap the successes of the last year, acquaint them with our vision for 2014, and encourage them to pledge generously for 2014. By now, many of you will have been contacted by Vestry members. It is our hope that as you read this report we will also announce that we’ve reached our pledge goal for 2014, $555,000, enabling us to sustain and enrich our life and service at St. John’s.

As we enter the season of expectant waiting for the coming of the Light, let us be vigilant in discerning the Christ who emerges in and amongst us at St. John’s.
Strategic Planning Commission Update by Phyllis Rawls Goff

Picture yourself on a bright Sunday morning five years in the future. You are entering the “church of the open door,” St. John the Evangelist, and there’s a warmth and vitality and spirit that makes you feel immediately at home and at peace. All around you, other parishioners of all ages and diverse backgrounds seem to feel the same as you and delight in being considered a part of this St. John’s family.

What else do you want to see and feel as you enter this place of reverence and worship for its 8:00 or 10:00 am services five years from now? This is one of the many questions the Strategic Planning Commission is wrestling with as we work to develop a roadmap for St. John’s top priorities over the next few years. We have been seeking input from parish members, staff, and the numerous commissions and committee volunteers who care enough to donate their time, talents, and treasures to St. John’s.

In fact, the October 2013 issue of The Evangelist reported on the ‘five-word dream exercise’ that was conducted with the congregation during both services on September 15. If you haven’t had a chance to read what you and others said about your dreams for St. John’s future, visit the parish website and check out that issue. The ‘word cloud’ cover revealed what you care about the most: a beautiful place, centered on the notion of a welcoming community, with diverse people who are worshipping and growing, honoring traditions and the beauty of our liturgy and space, while reaching out beyond our doors to the world in faith.

Based on research and your input, below are some of the ‘draft’ vision elements that have been developed to date:

- A growing and engaged congregation grounded in the love of Jesus Christ
- Spiritually rich worship, preaching and music
- Attracted by dynamic and caring clergy and parishioners; strong programming for children and youth service; outreach/faith in action programs
- Diverse in all ways
- A vibrant and healthy cultural center for the neighborhood
- Strong, innovative partnerships with community
- Known for our traditions and our strong connection with God
- Where we are more than a church—a community.

The top six priority focus areas that are currently being considered for creating this broad vision for the future include: 1) faith formation; 2) liturgy and music; 3) financial sustainability; 4) new member integration; 5) programming; and 6) building and infrastructure. We also know that pastoral care is extremely important at St. John’s; and we are trying to figure out how to ensure that pastoral care intersects effectively with faith formation, the liturgy, new member integration, and programming. We welcome your insights, and invite you to contact the co-chairs (Gabrielle Lawrence at lawrence@macalester.edu; and Phyllis Goff at phyllisgoff@msn.com) or any member of the Strategic Planning Commission.

So, what can you expect next? The Commission members will spend most of November and December meeting with parish leaders, commissions, and parish volunteers in each of the priority focus areas listed above, and get their input on the draft vision elements and the greatest opportunities for Saint John’s future. They will also be collecting data through an external environmental assessment. The goal is to present a ‘working draft’ to the Vestry in January, and then also to the parish as a whole at the Annual Meeting in January.
What Makes St. John a Good Neighbor

St. John’s the Evangelist Episcopal Church was recently recognized by the Ramsey Hill Association (RHA) with a Good Neighbor Award. Originally incorporated in 1972, the RHA is dedicated to preserving the historic significance of the neighborhood and building a strong community. Below is an excerpt of the letter from RHA explaining why we are deserving of this award.

….Over the decades parish members have demonstrated a commitment to the historic preservation of their structure. In recent years the church has been re-roofed in green Vermont slate with copper flashing, gutters and downspouts, true to specifications of Gilbert and Johnston.

St. John’s isn’t only about serving the Ramsey Hill neighborhood. For one month each year, St. John’s participates in Project Home, a program of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches providing emergency shelter in Ramsey County for children and their parents.

The church parking lot….has for the last two years been the site of a twice-weekly farmers market which is a collaboration effort of Hmong farmers attending Holy Apostles Episcopal Church… It also supports “Fields to Families,” a project providing fresh local produce to area food shelves.

Most recently, St. John’s has become the new home of Crocus Hill Pre-school, providing early childhood education for the children of about 50 area families. This is another example of St. John’s opening its facility to community groups as their regular meeting space.

In addition to the beauty of the physical structure and worship space, there is a rich music program that reaches into the neighborhood. St. John’s is home to six choirs that provide the musical foundation for worship and Evensong services, and it is home to a chamber music school providing music instruction and concerts.

In 2013, St. John’s church expressed an interest in…the Ramsey Hill House tour. What started as a request from RHA to use their parking lot for tour attendees, turned into a popular tour site. Tour attendees were led, every half hour, by parish members who are passionate about their church history. A highlight of the tour was a 15-minute pipe organ interlude and ending with the pealing of the original bronze bells.

The bells, which are heard throughout the Ramsey Hill neighborhood, are to some a marking of the important hours of the day. To others the pealing of the bells is heard as a celebration: of marriage, of new life or a life past, or simply of Sunday morning.

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church is, as their publications state, the “Church of the Open Door.”

New Member Information

Steve Sims

Steve Sims was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and raised in the Roman Catholic tradition. After attending high school and college in Lacrosse, he spent 22 years in the Catholic religious order as a brother. Steve has also worked as principal of a Catholic elementary school, and in 1994 started serving as a hospice chaplain with Fairview Home Care and Hospice. He currently manages hospice services and supervises the spiritual care, bereavement, music therapy, massage therapy, and volunteer programs. Last fall, Steve felt the urge to find a new church home, and decided to visit St. John’s since its service was timed such that he could meet a friend for lunch afterward. In subsequent visits to St. John’s, Steve grew convinced that he had found just the place to enhance his spiritual life. He was drawn to the friendly and welcoming spirit at St. John’s, the exceptional preaching, outstanding music, rich tradition, and a theology he could embrace. When he’s not working or helping out at St. John’s, Steve likes to spend time with his chocolate lab, Lexi, tackle home projects, travel, and explore the Twin Cities.

Kind Message from St. John’s Visitor

I attended Eucharist at St John’s today, filled out a visitor’s card, and this evening found a Breadsmith loaf attached to my front door! It is absolutely delicious and such a symbolic and meaningful gift was very much appreciated. I was very impressed by the seriousness, the spirituality and respect for tradition in the liturgy and sermon, and the amount of adult education/formation that is available. There are a lot of other things I liked about St John’s as well, and though I am “church shopping,” St John’s is at the top of my list. Thank you again for the bread and for inviting me to a spiritually alive and nourishing community. —Zach
St. John’s Advent Calendar
Below is a schedule of special events that are happening during the season of Advent. Access a full schedule of events online at http://stjohnsstpaul.org/news-events/calendar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time/Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 5</strong></td>
<td>7:00 pm, Compline</td>
<td>Choir Stalls</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 11</strong></td>
<td>12:00 noon, Noonday Prayers</td>
<td>Chapel</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12:30 pm, OWLs Luncheon</td>
<td>Fireside Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 pm, Hanging of the Greens</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 12</strong></td>
<td>7:00 pm, Compline</td>
<td>Choir Stalls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday, December 14</strong></td>
<td>5:45 pm, Christmas Reception</td>
<td>Fireside Room</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:00 pm, Christmas Party</td>
<td>Gymnasium</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 15</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am, Christmas Pageant</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday, December 19</strong></td>
<td>7:00 pm, Compline</td>
<td>Choir Stalls</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday, December 22</strong></td>
<td>4:00 pm, Christmas Lessons and Carols</td>
<td>Church</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday, December 24</strong></td>
<td>3:30 pm, Festival Service</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:00 pm, Festival Service</td>
<td>Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday, December 25</strong></td>
<td>10:00 am, Christmas Day Service</td>
<td>Church</td>
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St. John’s Christmas Giving Tree
St. John’s will again participate in the Christmas Giving Tree project set up through the YWCA Housing and Support Services; the same organization with which we partner for the Hearts to Homes project. The Giving Tree contains wish lists on tags from participating families.

We expect to have the gift tags before Thanksgiving weekend for those who like “Black Friday” shopping. All unwrapped gifts must be delivered to the YWCA (375 Selby Ave) by December 14.

There are many ways to participate: provide gifts for a whole family or just one family member, donate money to have others shop for you, or wrap gifts at the YWCA. We will also need some shoppers to help buy gifts with the donated funds.

If you’d like to help, please contact Sue Cadwell at 651-489-1741 or sue.m.cadwell@usps.gov or marvin1947@live.com.

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**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

*All OWLS, and women of St. John’s, are cordially invited to the* **CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON**

**Wednesday, December 11**

12:00 Noon: Noonday Prayer in the Chapel
12:30 pm: Lunch in the Fireside Room

Hosted by members of the Women’s Group

Food, Conversation, Program

RSVP to the church office by December 5
Wow! Can people at St. John’s cook chili! At the 2nd annual H2H Chili Bowl we had 17 crock pots lined up, each with a different and amazing chili. It was a heated competition, but after a tasting frenzy, winners were determined.

In the white chili category, winners were:

1st  Jennifer Kinkead
2nd  Michelle Wahl
3rd  Neil Elliot

In the red chili category, winners were:

1st  Jered Weber-Johnson (divine intervention or just really good chili?)
2nd  Dean Henderson
3rd  Jennifer Kinkead (yes, she entered both competitions)

Tasters donated more than 10 bags of household items and made cash donations to help support the H2H families. We all had a great time and left with hearts and bellies full of goodness. Thank you to everyone who cooked, tasted and donated. Start working on your recipes for 2014!

**Jered’s 1st place Red Chili**

*Smokehouse Chili du Nord*

2T Cumin
4 T Smoked Paprika
2 T Chili Powder (I prefer Ancho)
1 tsp Garlic Powder
1 Dark Beer (A smoked porter will up the “smoke”)
Salt and pepper to taste

In a large Dutch oven, brown bacon until slightly crispy. Reserve rendered fat. When bacon has cooled, mince and reserve. Season beef and brown with 1 T bacon drippings in batches making sure not to overcrowd the pan so the meat can caramelize on all sides. Set aside.

Set aside 1 cup of diced onion. Blend remaining onion, celery, cilantro, shallot, and garlic in a blender or food processor until smooth (you may have to add olive oil to aid the blending). Brown in 2 T bacon drippings. When done, the mixture should be a thick paste with an unappetizing brownish grayish hue. Deglaze the pan with the beer, scraping up any brown bits.

Toast spices over low heat in a dry skillet and grind if needed. Blend roasted peppers, tomatoes, chipotles, and spices until smooth. Mix in with the onion/celery/beer paste in pan and heat through.

Add the chili sauce to the browned beef and bacon bits, add in reserved onion, and cook in oven for 8 hours at 250 degrees. Cool and chill for at least two days. Then skim the hardened fat off the top. Use a potato masher or other blunt kitchen tool to mash and shred the beef. Reheat and serve.

Look for winning white chili recipes in next issue!

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**December Meeting**

*Hearts to Homes* - Monday, December 9 at 6:00 pm in the Library. For more information, contact Patricia Pfalz at pfalz@macalester.edu.
First Evensong Thanks
THANK YOU TO ALL who participated in our first “Bean Memorial Evensong” on All Saints’ Sunday, November 3rd. The singing and playing (with our guest organist, Sharon Kleckner) was beautiful. The reception after the service was elegant and delicious. Thank you to all who helped with this event!

Sung Compline Every Thursday in Advent
Compline will be held every Thursday at 7:00 pm during Advent. Compline services feature St. John’s Compline Ensemble performing anthems and leading the congregation in hymns and chants.

Compline is the last of the Daily Offices, and is a short candle-lit service of ancient prayers, psalms, chanting, and mystery. Incense is used, and all are welcome. To learn more, contact Craig Lemming at clemming@hotmail.com.

Music During Advent
During Advent we will be singing music from the Communion Service in A-flat of our former Organist/Choirmaster, George Fairclough. Mr. Fairclough, who moved to St. Paul from Kalamazoo, Michigan, served St. John’s for many years (circa 1895-1943). Many of his published choral anthems, canticles and communion services are sung around the world. Mr. Fairclough was also a Fellow of the American Guild of Organists, the national association for sacred musicians.

The Annual Lessons and Carols Service will be held Sunday, December 22nd, at 4:00 pm. At this special service, we will sing familiar Advent and Christmas carols and hear festive seasonal music, featuring harp and organ duets. Our harpist will also accompany several movements from Benjamin Britten’s A Ceremony of Carols. Don’t miss this holiday celebration. A reception will follow and child care is always available.

Both Christmas Eve services will feature a brass ensemble and all of our singing choirs. The prelude music will begin approximately 30 minutes prior to the 3:30 and 10:00 pm services.

Calling All Children to Sing Christmas Eve
Children in 1st-6th grade are invited to join the Children’s Choir as we sing with the angels at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service. If you are coming for Godly Play and Pageant rehearsals, just come an hour early (9:00 am in the Music Room) on December 8, 15, and 22 to prepare the music for this most holy night and very special service! This is a great way to try out singing with the Children’s Choir! Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, please contact Lizza Berry at 651-698-4269 or lizaaberry@aol.com.

Annual Choir Retreat Early 2014
The annual adult choir retreat will be held January 31-February 2, 2014. The choir will travel to Collegeville, MN (St. John’s University) where they will have intensive rehearsals and sessions on music for the Winter-Spring season. If you want to join our adult choir, please talk to Jayson Engquist.
Youth News

November has come, and with that, another Confirmation class. This year, we are blessed to have 10 youth from St. Johns and 5 from Holy Apostles participating in Confirmation. The theme for this year is focusing on The Bible and how it calls us to be Children of God. This year’s confirmation course also includes a mentorship program and opportunities for the youth to exercise their faith.

Some recent faith exercising events were the Diocesan Convention and TEC. On December 8, the group will have an opportunity to go and serve at First Nations Kitchen, the mission operated out of All Saints Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. It will allow the group to see the impact they are making by simply preparing a meal for those that may not have had one for the day.

If you have any questions regarding Confirmation and Senior High (9th grade – 12th grade) youth group, please feel free to contact Longkee Vang at 651-503-0450 or Jean Hansen at 952-201-0424. We again thank you for your support of our ministry throughout the year, especially during this holiday season.

Pageant Update for Kids and Parents

Pageant December 15, 2013

Parts are picked and people are practicing. Parent notes and the Pageant Rehearsal Schedule is below. Parents:

♦ If your child signs up for a speaking part they will need to attend all rehearsals
♦ We need at least three volunteer parents to help with costumes and three parent volunteers to be at rehearsals to guide groups of Shepherds, Sheep, Angels, and Beasts. Sign up for parent volunteers will be next to the cast sign up.

Rehearsal Schedule

First Sunday, December 1 – Meet in Choir Room
• 11:15-11:45am Full Cast: Music rehearsal in Music Room
• 11:45-12:00pm Speaking Parts: read through script

Sunday, December 8
• 10:00am Godly Play
• 10:30am Full Cast: Music rehearsal in Music Room
• Speaking Parts and Full Cast: walk through in Gym
• 11:15 am -12:00 noon Speaking Parts: blocking rehearsal in Sanctuary

Saturday, December 14, Dress Rehearsal
• 9:00-11:30am Narrators and Speaking parts meet in Sanctuary, other cast members meet in gym for costumes

Sunday, December 15, Pageant!
• 9:30 am All cast meet in Gym for costumes
• 10:00 am Pageant during the service

Youth Caroling

On Wednesday, December 18, St. John’s youth will go caroling at Episcopal Homes (1879 Feronia Ave, St. Paul, 55104).

We plan to start at 7:00 pm and anyone who would like to sing should meet us there. To learn more, contact Jean Hansen at rjhansen3128@aim.com.
By Jean Hansen

I have loved learning about, and coordinating Godly Play here at St. John's! I am constantly reminded that our children know things. We have so much to learn about God from our children. I often have conversations with my children about God, and what God must be like.

My youngest child (3 years old) has a pretty developed vocabulary and it's especially fun to ask her about God. Most recently while talking with Meredith about God I asked her if she remembered the time she had spent with God before she came to live with us. She had a lot to say, but there was one thing that stood out the most. I asked her “what did you do with God?” She answered: “I slept on God’s back.”

This instantly reminded me of the Godly Play story of Moses and the Ten Best Ways to Live. In this story Moses asks to see God’s face and God explains that no man can see God’s face and live. Instead, God places Moses between two rocks and allows him to see God from behind. The Godly Play storyteller then makes the statement that seeing God face to face is too much for us. But if we see him from behind, we can then follow Him all the days of our lives. Our children know things...

Theology is “faith seeking understanding” (St. Anselm). In the 20th Century theologians have learned to pay attention to whose faith is seeking understanding of what experience of God. And children have a significant contribution to add to theology.

Jesus put a child in the center of the disciples when they were having a theological argument about greatness in the kingdom of God. It’s evident that Jesus thought the child’s presence would give the disciples a clue to the essential truth they were missing. Our children know things...

Maria Montessori spoke about this in her preface to The Mass Explained for Children: “Our Lord perceived in children something that the adult did not perceive two thousand years ago and does not perceive today. Yet the Gospel says plainly that many mysteries shall be revealed to these little ones.” Our children know things...

Go ahead – ask your children about God. Ask them what they know about God and if they remember living with God before they came to be with you.

Godly Play Storyteller Helen Boyer

Helen, who joined St. John’s in 2003, heard the ‘call’ to be a Godly Play Storyteller after seeing a church bulletin invitation in August for new storytellers and assistants. The joy she found in interacting with neighborhood children while walking her dog awakened her interest in being part of children’s discovery of God facilitated by the Godly Play program offered at St. John’s. She followed up by taking training and receiving a certificate from the Godly Play teacher training program. Helen will be a Storyteller for Grades 1-2, for the 3rd thru 5th Sundays of each month. In addition to working with Godly Play, Helen is part of St. John’s Handbell Ensemble, which rings bells for each second Sunday of the month. She also volunteers as an usher, and has designed and constructed several stained glass windows for St. John’s.
Faith Formation

For Adults and Youth 2013 - 2014

ANIMATE:FAITH Continues

“What we’re hoping for is intelligence on fire.” ~Brian McLaren

The new series ANIMATE: FAITH tackles the meaty questions and ideas of Christian faith by combining video clips of compelling speakers with discussion and activities that engage your experience and imagination.

Great conversations are happening! Join us for a series that will enliven your faith and inspire your thinking! Attend Sunday mornings or 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings in the Fireside Room.

Upcoming topics

Sundays 9:00 am (45 min. each)

- December 1 – Religion, part 2
- December 8 and 15 – Jesus, parts 1 and 2
- December 22 and January 5 – Salvation, parts 1 and 2
- January 12 and 19 – Cross, parts 1 and 2
- January 26 and February 2 – Bible, parts 1 and 2
- February 9 and 16 – Church, parts 1 and 2

1st and 3rd Tuesdays 7:00 pm (90 min. each)

- December 3 – Jesus
- December 17 – Salvation
- January 7 – Cross
- January 21 – Bible
- February 4 – Church

Planning ahead for January 2014

The Epistle to the Philippians

Wednesday evenings
January 9, 16, and 23
5:30 pm dinner  6:15 pm class

Paul’s brief letter to the Christians in the Greek city of Philippi is filled with profound spiritual insights as well as practical teachings for daily life. By looking at both the letter and the historical context in which it was written, we will see how Paul weaves together themes of humility, joy, and hope by focusing on the example of Jesus and by relating his own experiences. The letter helps us see how we can live lives that are meaningful and faithful.

House Groups—"Joining Together, Growing Together"

House groups are a place to share your lives and journey together. They are gatherings of 8-12 members that meet regularly for friendship, spiritual support, and building deeper relationships, sometimes rotating among the members houses or meeting elsewhere. Some groups also meet to study or have a common interest or focus. Many groups meet monthly, but you can determine how often your group meets and what you will do in your time together.

To explore how you and your friends can form a house group or to connect with an existing group or with others who are interested in forming a group, contact Judy Stack-Nelson at judy.stacknelson@stjohnsstpaul.org.
**Community Life**

Our next Baptism Sunday is January 12, 2014. We believe, at St. John’s, that baptism is about what God is doing through the Spirit and about what God is up to in the life and death and resurrection of Jesus. In this way, Baptism is less about a rite of passage, or even about one individual, but more about locating our individual lives in the wider life and story of God and God’s grace. If you are interested in getting baptized or having a child baptized, please contact Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson at 651-228-1172, x11 to set up a time to meet. The next baptism after January 12 will take place on April 19.

**St. John’s Crossword**

For something a little different, Alden Drew has come up with a crossword puzzle for us. Get out a magnifying glass and give it a try. We will print the solution in the next newsletter.

### December Meetings

**Prayer Shawl Meeting** - During Advent, Prayer Shawl meetings will be held weekly - Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 in the Undercroft. Learn more from Anneke Krall at 651–690–0579.

**Men’s Group** - Tuesday, December 10, at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact Josh Colton at 612–275–6004.

**Men’s Breakfast** - Saturday, December 14, at 9:00 am in the Gym Kitchen. To learn more, contact Jim Johnson at 651–698–5655.

**Down Syndrome Group** - Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm in the Undercroft and Nursery. To learn more, contact Lindsay Radford, LRadford@kstp.com.

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**Book Club Returns in February 2014**

Book club will next meet Saturday, February 1, 2014 at 9:30 am in the Fireside Room. We will be reading *A Romantic Education* by Patricia Hampl. *Zealot* by Reza Aslan will be March’s selection and *Sarah Thornhill* by Kate Grenville will be discussed in April. Thanks to all who make our gatherings so enjoyable! Contact Mary Ellen Elliott at 651–426–4146 to learn more.

**Bible Study** - Wednesdays at 11:00 am in the Library.

**Turning over a new leaf? Make it a page from the Bible.**

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**Next Baptism January 12**

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Happy Birthday to...

December*

1  Andrew Johnson  13  Roan Weinkauf
   Matthew Richards  14  Phyllis Frisby
   Adam Ross  15  David Lilly
   Bob Yeager  16  Alison Young Rasch

3  Barbara McGowan  17  John Thompson
   Neil Grace  18  Caleb Olson
   Inge Bischof  19  Brett Berry

4  Beth Kendall  20  Delaney Grundhauser
   Niah Weber  21  Alden Drew

5  George Dow, Jr.  22  Sarah Reynolds
   Antay Biligutay  23  Thomas Edman
   Troy Stack-Nelson  24  Joan Potter

6  Kate Nicholson  25  Gary Gleason
   Elliot Wall  26  Frank Wiecher
   Aurelia Hance  27  Caroline Sullivan

8  Heather Joyce  28  Lisa Hertle
   Mary Ellen Elliott  29  Henry Snyder

11  Sue Cadwell  30  Crosby Sommers
    Jody Dueber  31  Vern Kassekert

24  Elizabeth Brown
    Henry Sluka

25  Mary Probst Morrison
    Isabella Frost

26  Walt Cygan
    Claire Eckley
    Holly Weinkauf

28  Leo Dueber
    Neil Elliott
    Cathy Grundhauser
    Catherine Nicholson

30  Laura Kochevar

31  Imogen Clamons
    Ian Dobson
    Jill Ross

*If your birthday was missed, please call or email the church office so our records can be updated.

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Altar Decor Given to the Glory of God in Memory of:

December 1 The First Sunday of Advent
Main and Small Altar
John H. Hannaford, Gertrude Hannaford Jaffray,
Caroline S. and Jule M. Hannaford, Jr., Jule M. Hannaford, III

December 8 The Second Sunday of Advent
Main Altar
Ralph E. Hagstrom, William E. and Lois King, Margaret P. and Jack Rasmussen
Small Altar
C. Wesley, Lillian, and Paul Andersen

December 15 The Third Sunday of Advent
Main and Small Altar
Charles Read Gleason, Laura Virginia Millis Gleason

December 22 The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Main and Small Altar
The Right Reverend Robert Marshall Anderson

December 25 Christmas Day
Main Altar
Thomas and Betty Garrett, Louise S. Andrews, Martha and Gustav Seeger,
John Seeger

December 29 The First Sunday after Christmas Day
Main Altar
Harlan W. “Bill” Newell

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Altar Flowers 2013

The memorial flowers on the Main and Little Sanctuary altars are given by parishioners on a perpetual calendar basis. There are a few Sundays available for donors to sign up to give the flowers for either of our altars. If you are interested, please contact Dusty Mairs or the Church Office to find out the available dates for each altar.
### ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULE 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>READERS*</th>
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<td>George &amp; Mason Kinkead</td>
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<td>Tom &amp; Aimee Baxter</td>
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<td>Jeff &amp; Peggy Olsen</td>
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### December Acolyte Schedule

- **December 1:** Matt Richards, Eli Weinkauf, Mason Kinkead, Ailsa Schmidt
- **December 8:** Johanna Frisby, Emily Brooks, Maura Lynch, Logan Finkel
- **December 15:** Madeline Weinkauf, Rachel Clark, Will Rinkoff, Matt Brooks, Tessa Johnson
- **December 22:** Tim Krall, Caroline Krall, Linnea Krall, Samantha Rosendale, Helen Baxter
- **December 24:**
  - **4:00 pm** Madeline Weinkauf, Eli Weinkauf, Emily Brooks, Matt Brooks
  - **10:30 pm** Tim, Caroline, Linnea, and Sabine Krall
- **December 29:** Matt Richards, Eli Weinkauf, Mason Kinkead, Ailsa Schmidt
Celebrate the joy of the holiday season!
Church of St. John the Evangelist Annual Christmas Party
Saturday, December 14th, 2013

5:45 pm - Appetizers in the Fireside Room
7:00 pm - Dinner in the Gymnasium

If your last name begins with A-H, please bring a dessert to share.
If your last name begins with I-Z, please bring an appetizer to share.

Make your reservation one of these 3 ways:
1. At church: the Usher's Desk or the Undercroft
2. Call the parish office: 651-228-1172, x10
3. Via email: parishevents@stjohnsstpaul.org

Suggested donations: $20 per person or $50 per family (payable at the door). All are welcome regardless of ability to pay. Additional contributions are welcome.

Free childcare with meal available with reservation only. Please indicate how many children when making reservations. Childcare cannot be provided without reservations.