

THE EVANGELIST

Newsletter for
Saint John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church



December 2015

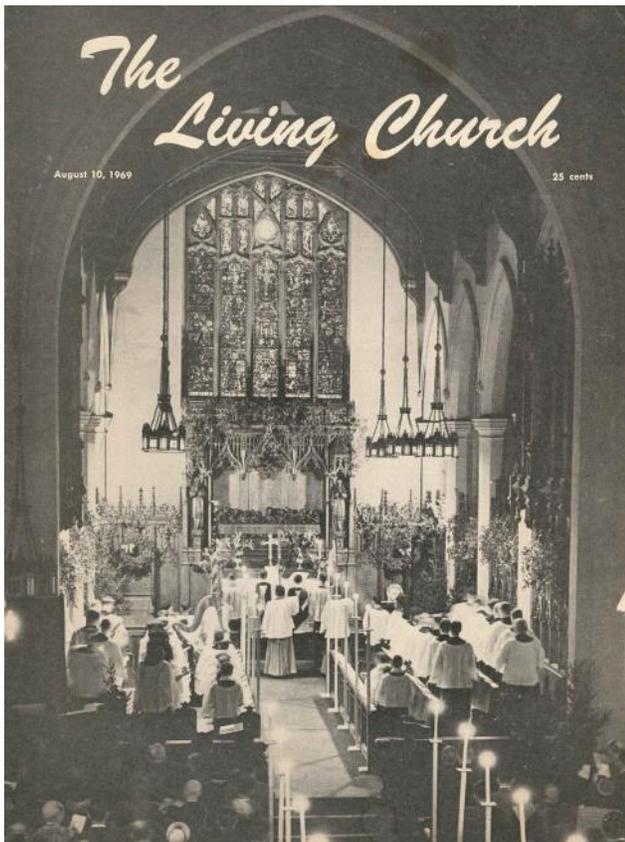
Church of the Open Door Since 1881

Vol. CXII, No. 12

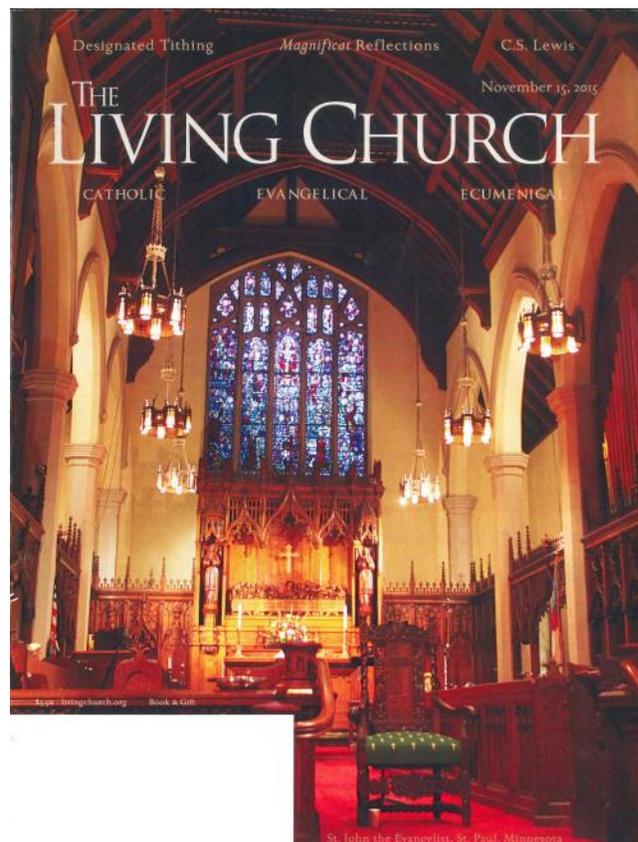
Saint John's Featured in *The Living Church*

Last month *The Living Church* magazine, one of the preeminent publications of the Episcopal Church, featured St. John's both in the cover photo and a wonderful article that was inspired by Saint John's recent history book, "*For All the Saints*". The article focuses on the history of our parish. The article gives a summary of "*For All the Saints*", including mention of the historical progression of the parish lives, and the succession of each of the rectors accentuated throughout by pictures from the book, many of which were provided by parishioner Aimee Baxter.

Additionally, in 1969, *The Living Church* magazine ran an almost identical photo on the cover of it's August issue and a similar article detailing our vibrant parish then. Clearly there is and has been much to celebrate in the wider church about our faith community, then and now. For more in-depth information on the magazine and the Saint John's article visit [The Living Church website, livingchurch.org](http://TheLivingChurch.org).



August 10, 1969



November 15, 2015

Join Us This Advent:

Sundays

8:00 am Service:

Holy Eucharist Rite I

9:00 St. John's Café
(Meditation Room)

9:00 Sunday Forum
(Fireside Room)

9:00 Choir Rehearsals
(Music Room & Chancel)

9:45 Godly Play
(School)

10:00 am Service:

Sung Eucharist Rite I

11:15 Coffee Hour
(Gathering Space)



January Issue

December 14 at 4pm

All groups and individuals are **encouraged** to submit news and items of interest to *The Evangelist*. Email (church@stjohnsstpaul.org), mail, or bring your **written and titled piece and/or photos** to the church office *before* the deadline shown. Thank you!

**St. John the Evangelist
Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
651-228-1172
651-228-1144 (fax)
www.stjohnsstpaul.org**

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9:00 am to 4:00 pm

From the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson



"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality." -Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fear is a tricky thing. Fear can drive us to act irrationally, even ignorantly. Fear can, at its worst, impede our empathy. Fear can cause us to waver in our moral commitments and cause us to shrink from the better angels of our nature.

Certainly these are fearful times in America and around the world. Sadly, the word terror is so often on the headline and in our mouths that historians of the future will no doubt contend that fear was a predominating force shaping the world of today. There are anxieties over our economy, over job security, over the spread of infectious diseases, and as we encountered once again (closer to home than we have in some time), there are renewed and new fears emerging from the darkness caused by religious extremists, from the attacks in Paris and Beirut and Turkey, and the list goes on and on.

While the world has responded in many understandable ways, increasing security, pursuing "bad guys", and by seeking to answer injustice with justice, I have been troubled of late by the public rhetoric of Islamophobia and xenophobia that many of our elected leaders continue to perpetuate. What troubles me most is that many who have adopted this fear-mongering have also draped themselves and their political destinies in the language of faith, most often Christian faith. This is unacceptable. Fear has no place in the Christian faith. As we affirm in our scriptures, God is love, and "such love has no fear, because perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).

Writing in response to the Syrian refugee crisis, a crisis which has only served in the political sphere to amp up the rhetoric of fear, our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry wrote powerfully how our faith holds within itself the tools to unbind us from corrosive effects of fear.

"Jesus calls us to go even further: not just to love our neighbors and our kin, but to love our enemies. This is particularly difficult when we are afraid. But even in the midst of our fear we stand on the solid ground of our faith and proclaim the faith in Christ crucified and risen from the dead. In practical terms, this may mean finding strength in prayer, or in our neighbors, or in our churches, or in acts of solidarity with others who live in fear. This is the hope that casts out fear."

In only a few weeks we will rejoice at the birth of Jesus, a refugee child born in extreme poverty who with his parents fled to Egypt to escape violence by the state. Surely we who follow him, the Incarnate God, who challenged us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and welcome the stranger; surely we can strive to answer that challenge not by closing our doors and our borders, but in vulnerability and hope, welcome those who for persecution sake have been driven from their homes.

For those of you interested in seeing how we can live according to the better angels of our nature, and not remain neutral, a growing number of folks at St.

John's have begun wondering together how we can faithfully respond to the Syrian refugee crisis in our life as a faith community. Let me know if you'd like to join in that active discussion.

Blessings to you and yours this Advent season, and may you look with hope to the annual celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Faithfully,

Join us for Advent & Christmas worship:

Advent Sundays at St. John's

Each Sunday morning during Advent we will include the wreath lighting ceremony and a new Crèche ceremony featuring our children and our new Recorder Ensemble during our 10am service. Join in these anticipatory services waiting for the arrival of Christmas.

Sung Compline

You are invited throughout Advent to reflective worship on Thursday nights: December 3 and 17 with Lumina Women's Ensemble, December 10 with St. John's Lay Clerk's Ensemble. Compline, with its rich prayers and ample silence is the perfect place to meditate on the coming incarnation.

Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 20 at 4pm

The annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols will be offered by St. John's featuring the musical arrangements of David Willcocks and showcasing all of the choirs of St. John's and many guest musicians.

Christmas Eve

Join us for festive services on Christmas Eve at 4 and 10pm! St. John's Choirs and Musicians will perform and familiar Christmas carols and anthems will be included. *Come early for an extended musical prelude before the services!*

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, January 3 at 10am

Christmas lasts 12 days and so should our celebration of it! We would like to invite your children to participate in this year's production. This will be a fun and faith-filled experience for the children and for our parish alike.

St. John's Clergy, Staff, and Volunteers

Clergy

The Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson, Rector
The Reverend Kate Bradtmiller, Associate Rector
The Reverend Margaret Thor, Deacon

Staff

Sarah Dull, Parish Administrator
Jayson Engquist, Director of Music and Organist
Jean Hansen, Children, Youth, and Family Minister
Ivan Holguin, Building Assistant
Heather Hunt, Children & Youth Choirs Director
Tracy Johnson, Nursery Coordinator
The Reverend Craig Lemming, Compline Coordinator
The Reverend Barbara Mraz, Writer in Residence
John Oldfield, Office of the Treasurer
Chris Tegeler, Building Manager
Longkee Vang, Youth Ministry Assistant
Dunfa Weretti, Building Assistant

Vestry Members

Bob Baumann, Clerk of Vestry
Tricia Durst, At Large
Mary Gilbertson, At Large
Gary Hagstrom, At Large
Vern Kassekert, Fellowship
Tim Krall, Invited Youth (non-voting)
John MacBain, Property
Suzanne McInroy, Communications
Don Postema, Senior Warden
Rick Rinkoff, Treasurer
Lea Anne Schmidt, New Member/Welcome
Judy Stack-Nelson, Formation
Colleen Swope, Faith in Action
Kevin Wall, At Large
Holly Weinkauf, At Large
Nancy Wellington, Music
Jerry Woelfel, Junior Warden

Volunteer Positions

Artaria String Quartet, Artists in Residence
Phillip Baird, Verger
Alden Drew, Historian/Archivist
Paige Hagstrom, Coffee Hour Coordinator
Paul Hanson, Music Librarian
Jim Johnson, Planned Gift Chair
Joan Potter, Liturgical and Lay Reader Coordinator
Diane Power, Altar Guild Coordinator
George Power, Columbarium Coordinator
Jill Thompson, Music Vestment Coordinator

A note on the Advent Liturgy

Throughout the liturgical year at Saint John's we attempt to make full use of our whole Book of Common Prayer. This means that seasonally we worship at our 10am Eucharist using the different Eucharistic rites available to us. In Lent and Advent this means we use the traditional language of Rite I. This is the language that helped me discover the Episcopal Church, and I find the cadence and rhythm of the prayers, many of them barely adapted from the originals penned by Cramner more than a few centuries ago, to be a refreshing reminder of the legacy of faith that we share and the beauty of our Anglican heritage. We are graced and blessed to continue to worship, in the beauty of holiness using the full breadth and depth of the prayerbook.

This Advent the Liturgy Team and I are also delighted to celebrate some faithful embellishments to our liturgy. As we experienced in last year's Lesson's and Carols, this year families and children will be helping us to move the crèche around the church as the holy family and all the sheep and shepherds and wise men make the journey to the stable in Bethlehem. Each week we will mark their progress toward the feast of the Nativity with prayers and movement. We are also pleased to announce that as a trial period for the season of Advent, in accordance with the environmental and ecological aspirations of the last Episcopal Church in Minnesota annual convention, we are implementing a streamlined trifold bulletin. This new bulletin will include most, if not all of the parts spoken by the congregation as well as the scripture lessons and relevant information to smoothly navigate the liturgy. This new environmentally sustainable bulletin uses significantly less paper and has been crafted as a labor of love and as a collaboration between the Saint John's Liturgy Team and clergy. We welcome your feedback on its usefulness and overall look. More than anything, we hope to see you throughout Advent and Christmastide in as much of the worship of the church as you are able to join us. -Jered Weber-Johnson

Hangings of the Greens

Join us Wednesday, December 16 at 6pm. At this annual event, we gather to decorate the church inside and out with greens and garlands. No RSVP required. Wearing work gloves may be helpful. We will meet in the Church.

Stewardship: Church of the Open Door

As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life. - I Timothy 6:17-19

Dear Friend in Christ,

St. John's is the Church of the Open Door. Generations of parishioners held St. John's doors open through their gifts of money and time. It is now our turn to support St. John's and to sustain that tradition of faithful service through our pledge and our commitment to the ministries of our church.



We have so much to be grateful for at St. John's.

- Liturgy, sermons, and music that inspire our faith
- Programs for children, youth, and adults that teach us about the nature of God and equip us to live our faith to the fullest
- Outreach programs that encourage us to be God's hands in the world
- Clergy and staff who guide us in times of joy and of mourning
- Opportunities to gather for fellowship and celebration
- A beautiful space in which to worship our Creator
- Opportunities to share our building and resources with our neighbors
- Fellow Christians who pray with us and for us

Each of us has treasure and talent to share. I ask that you join me in pledging to St. John's this year. Make your pledge a reflection of the gratitude for all we love about St. John's and your growing commitment to our common work of building God's Kingdom.

Yours in Christ,

Lynn Hertz
-Stewardship Chair

Look for your pledge packet in the mail, pews, online, or call 651-228-1172 x10. Thank you!

A VERY HAPPY LIFE

A Portrait of Betty Myers

By Barbara Mraz

She meets me at the door of her lovely home in one of St. Paul's most beautiful neighborhoods and offers me coffee or Coke and just-baked brownies.

It's like she knew my tastes before I got there. Chocolate and Cola – yes please!

Hospitality and graciousness are two things that define Betty Myers. She is a "great lady" by any standard, does not suffer fools lightly, and lives an active and varied life. Her mother lived to be 100 and her father came close so she has the genes, for one thing. She also does Pilates every week.

While her beloved husband John Myers was profiled extensively in the parish history, I was curious about Betty and how she lived her life as a part of a prominent, distinguished family in an era when so much was different from today.

Born into a family residing in Crocus Hill, Betty is a cradle Episcopalian, raised at St. Clement's, but belonging to St. John's for almost 70 years. She attended public schools in St. Paul and at St. Mary's Hall, an Episcopal boarding school now merged with Shattuck. Many years later she became a trustee of the school. She graduated from the University of Minnesota with an English major, then moved with her family to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, as her father was called back into service with the US Army during World War II. They moved on to Ohio and then to Washington D.C. where she worked at the Pentagon.

John and Betty met at St. John's and were married here. They had two sons, Bruce and Peter, and lived on the Mississippi River Boulevard. Bruce and his wife Anne now have two sons and live in Maine where Bruce has worked for 25 years at a private school in Yarmouth. Peter and his wife Karla live in St. Paul, and have three children. Peter produces documentaries. One of them about local choral directors such as Philip Brunelle and Dale Warland won a regional Emmy. Betty is proud of her five grandchildren and four great

-grandchildren.

John and Betty also bought a house on MacMahan Island, off the coast of Maine, which was nestled in a community of only 37 homes. Betty and the boys would spend summers there and John would join them when he could. The Myers went to MacMahan Island for 42 years and Betty still has friendships from those days.



One of Betty's best memories is of all of the travel she and John were able to do. She also loved the entertaining the family often did – "I still like to put on a party dress!" One event held on their lawn was a reception for the Archbishop of Canterbury. He didn't want to be photographed with a wine glass in his hand so when picture-taking time came, he stashed the glass in a nearby rose bush.

Betty has been a widow since age 63 when John died suddenly at age 73. It is clear that she misses him still as she describes theirs as "a happily-ever-after marriage."

Betty 's St. John' contributions are extensive: Sunday School teacher, president of the St. John's Churchwomen, 25 years on the Altar Guild, four times on the vestry, and recently working on the committee that published "For All the Saints," the parish history.

She is a Life Director both of the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, as well on the board for the MacPhail Center for Music. "Music is kind of my thing. I really love it," she says.

"I'm having a very happy life."

Help Prepare the Evangelist

Are you looking for an opportunity to help spread the good news of all that is happening at St. John's and would appreciate a couple of hours of fellowship with other parishioners?

We would love you to join us in the Fireside Room any time between 9 am and 12 pm. Call Sarah at 651-228-1172x10 for more information.

The next preparation day is Wednesday, December 23.

Faith in Action

H2H (Hearts-to-Homes) Chili Bowl

We cooked, we donated, we tasted, we ate..... and ate some more, and we voted! At the 4th annual Hearts to Homes Chili Cook Off, eighteen different chilies competed for our three chili awards. It was a heated competition, but after tallying and re-tallying the votes, winners were announced:

Red Chili Winner - Michelle Wall

White Chili Winner - Jennifer Kincaid (yes, she's won all 4 years!)

Vegetarian Chili Winner - Laura Dale Bischof

See Winners picture on page 13.



In addition to eating great food, we collected many household goods along with \$580 for our H2H families. Thank you to everyone who generously donated, cooked, and tasted. Because of our great St. John's community the 4th annual H2H Chili Cook Off was great success. Start working on your recipes for 2016!

Chicken Cashew Chili

Serves 6 to 8

- 4 dried ancho chilies
- 2 1/2 cups Chicken Stock
- 1 tablespoon canned chipotle chilies in adobo
- 1 1/2 cups (7 1/2 ounces) salted roasted cashews
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 large onions, coarsely chopped
- 6 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1 (3 1/2- to 4-pound) chicken, rinsed, patted dry, excess fat discarded, and cut into 8 serving pieces
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 2 (14- to 15-ounce) cans diced tomatoes in juice
- 1 ounce bittersweet chocolate, chopped
- 1 (19-ounce) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained

Make the Chili Puree: Heat a dry small heavy skillet (not nonstick) over moderate heat until hot. Toast dried chilies, one at a time, pressing down with tongs, for several seconds on each side to make them more pliable. Seed and devein dried chilies; discard stems. Tear dried chilies into pieces and transfer to a blender. Add stock, chipotles, and 12 cup cashews and puree

until smooth.

Make the Chili: Heat oil in a 6- to 7-quart wide heavy pot over moderate heat until hot but not smoking. Add onions and garlic and cook, stirring, until softened, 5 to 7 minutes. Add cumin and salt and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add chicken and stir to coat with onion mixture. Stir in chili puree, 14 cup cilantro, and tomatoes with juice. Bring to a simmer and simmer, covered, stirring occasionally to avoid sticking, until chicken is cooked through, about 45 minutes. Remove from heat and transfer chicken to a bowl. Shred meat using two forks; discard bones and skin. Return chicken to pot and stir in chocolate, beans, remaining 1 cup cashews, and remaining 14 cup cilantro. Cook over moderate heat, stirring, until chili is heated through and chocolate is melted.

The Christmas Giving Tree

St John's is participating in the Christmas Giving Tree project again this year. This program is set up through the YWCA Housing and Support Services. The Giving Tree contains wish list tags from each member of participating families and will fulfill Christmas for many.

Wish tags are hanging on the Christmas tree located at the back of the church. Tags will remain on the tree waiting to be chosen or until the deadline nears. Your help is very appreciated!!

There is more than one way you can participate: you can select however many tags you wish to fulfill, or donate funds to have others shop for you.

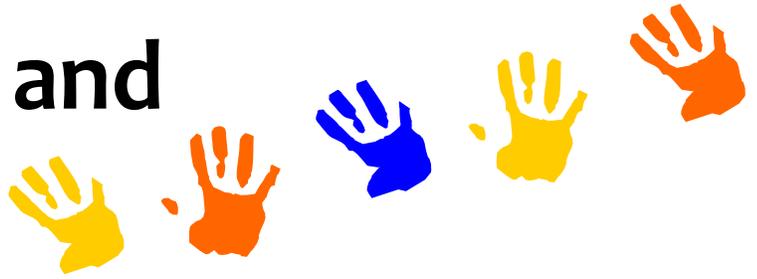
Once purchased, the unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at the YWCA Exercise area at 375 Selby Ave by Friday, December 11. There they will be wrapped and distributed in time for a Christmas celebration. However, we will not be providing CUB Food Certificates as we have done in the past.

This year we have committed to providing gifts for 14 families in the YWCA Support Services. For more information contact Sue Cadwell, sue.m.cadwell@usps.gov

Hearts to Homes Meeting

Thursday, December 3 at 6pm in the Library. To learn more, contact Patty Bryne Pfalz at pfalz@macalester.edu or 651-224-7784.

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry



From Kate Bradtmiller

d365: an invitation to daily prayer with scripture:

In November, I shared my current form of daily devotionals with the youth groups, and invited them to join me in daily prayer. Every morning, before I go running with our dog, I sit down with d365.org, a collaboration of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and the Episcopal Church. Each day, the website posts a devotion that begins with a short meditation, moves to a scripture passage and reflection on that passage, and closes with a prayer and another short meditation. While d365 is designed for "young people", as the introduction says, I find it accessible and applicable to my own life. Would you join the youth group in their daily prayers during Advent, using d365.org? We would love to share this experience with the whole congregation.



Activities for the seasons of Advent and Christmas

Blessing of the Christmas Tree

After you have decorated your home for Christmas, set up the Christmas tree. When the tree is yet untrimmed (but the lights have been strung), recall that God has blessed us with life and that, just as the tree is ever-green, God's love for us is unending and never changes. Then as each ornament is placed on the tree, have the family member placing it share a blessing. After the tree is trimmed, plug in the lights and read this prayer together:

God, you made light shine out of darkness. Bless this tree that we decorated with lights in honor of Jesus Christ who has come to bring light to us. This Advent season,

help us to show your light in our faces and be happy, radiant, and loving people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Creche

Prepare a crèche as a centerpiece to remember that Advent is a season of preparation. Be sure to make the crèche accessible to children. My children have always loved playing with the figures.

Rather than placing all of the figures in the crèche when you set it up, build the anticipation of Christmas this way:

When putting out the animals talk about God's concern for all of nature. When placing the shepherds and Mary and Joseph in the following weeks, Advent themes of joy, hope and peace can be emphasized. Finally, on Christmas Eve, add baby Jesus to the scene – "Joy to the world, the Lord has come!" (Our family likes to hide baby Jesus, and the kids play hot and cold to find him!) After Christmas the wise men (Magi) can be added to lead us from Christmas to Epiphany.

The Last week of Advent

To help distinguish between Advent and the Christmas season, some families do not put up their Christmas decorations until about a week before Christmas. Using Advent decorations and music during Advent, and Christmas decorations and carols during the twelve days of Christmas sensitizes people to the meaning of both seasons.

Watch *The Nativity Story* together as a family

On Christmas Eve read the Christmas story in Luke 1:5-56 through 2:1-20:

Christmas Prayers For Families

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth . . . may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.

Musical Notes from the Organ Bench...

St John's Choir Goes Guthrie

by Joan Potter

...Okay, I've never been on stage or even wanted to...and then I loved it.

Well, I didn't expect it to be so powerful...I had no idea WHAT to expect...

So we're sitting on stage and I'm pretty sure Claire was going to poison the boy and it was awful...I wanted to look away but I couldn't...

- St. Johns' choir members



We did it! St John's choir sang and acted on the Guthrie stage on September 27, in **The Events**, a production by The Actors' Touring Company: just our choir, two actors and Joe, who directed us from the piano. We didn't know the script and had not run the show with the actors.

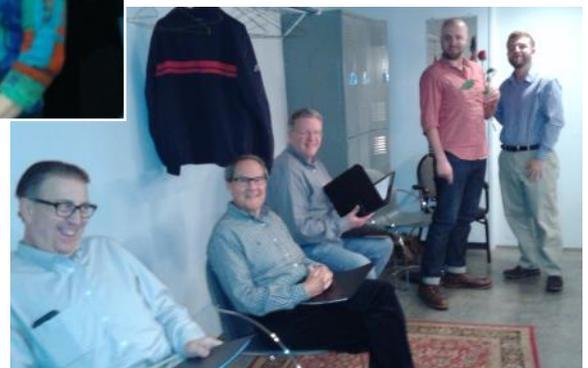
We engaged in powerful theatre. In July 2011 Anders Breivik massacred 77 young people on the island of Utoya, outside Oslo, Norway. Scottish playwright David Grieg, shocked and confused and outraged, created a play that explores the impact of such an event. A tragic, disturbing event. And a story we know all too intimately...Sandy Hook, Boston Marathon, Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church...and far too much "on and on."

Greig sets this event in a Scottish village. The young man Sam arms himself, then randomly massacres members of a community choir, directed by Claire, an Anglican priest, all of whom had gathered for weekly rehearsal, just as we do at St John's on Wednesday nights. Sam neither knows them nor has he been with the choir before that night.

The shooting is not recreated onstage, because this is less about the shooting and much more about the profound impact on Claire, on her relationship with her community, her partner, and with her sense of herself and her faith. Claire wrestles with the complexities of empathy, anger, and forgiveness. She struggles with the question of healing: How can she heal? How can the choir? Her faith tautens to break point. Is the answer in faith or in understanding the perpetrator? Where is hope? At the core, she reaches to community, in this case the choir, who weaves its disparate life threads and draws together through singing.

We sang, lullabied, imitated electric guitar and the narcissistic power rant of a disturbed boy, then participated in an uncomfortable primal shamanistic ritual. And we sat on stage with two people: a priest in pain and a boy who had butchered our peers. Like the audience, we had not seen the play nor did we know what Claire would choose: vengeance or forgiveness.

We all felt part of that decision.



Planning Ahead...

Annual Piano Celebration Concert

Saturday, January 23 at 7:30 pm featuring several pianists on our Sanctuary Steinway piano. OSIP NIKFIFOROV, pianist, will be the featured performer on the second half of the program. The piano will also be utilized as a chamber instrument with vocal and instrumental musical works.

Mary's Lament: Christ Crucified

Saturday, February 20 at 7pm the crucifixion narrative, through the eyes of Jesus' mother, Mary, in poems, songs, hymns and narration.

Traditional Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 20 at 4pm

The annual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols will be offered by St. John's this year featuring the musical arrangements of David Willcocks, one of England's most-beloved choral conductors and composers. Sir David recently died at the age of 95. The service begins with the well-known "Once in Royal David's City," sung first by a solo chorister. All the choirs then process into the candle-lit church. Each of the nine lessons is read followed by a familiar carol or anthem. The Artaria String Quartet will be featured together with St. John's Adult, Children's, Youth, and Handbell Choirs. This traditional service has been a part of the English (Anglican) Christmas season for many years. The service first began in 1878 with the choir of Truro Cathedral singing a service of carols at their 10pm Christmas Eve service. It became very popular some years later when the service was broadcast over BBC from King's College in Cambridge, England. Minnesota Public Radio (with host Michael Barone) has been sharing this annual event for over 25 years.

Christmas Eve at 4pm

Our Children's, Youth and Adult choirs will sing at the early service. Violinists John MacBain and Rachel Bandli will play. Familiar carols and anthems of Christmas will be shared. A 30-minute musical prelude will precede the service. If you would like to sing in our "Christmas Choir" please speak with Jayson Engquist (orgjre@gmail.com or x36).

Christmas Eve at 10pm

Our Adult choir will sing and violinists John MacBain and Rachel Bandli will play. Familiar solos, carols and anthems of Christmas will be presented. A 30-minute musical prelude will precede the service. If you would like to sing in our "Christmas Choir" please speak with Jayson Engquist (orgjre@gmail.com or x36).

Recorder Group

If you play the recorder, we now have a recorder "consort" (small ensemble). We plan to play during Sunday mornings in Advent. Please speak with Jayson Engquist if you are interested in joining this little "band." Call 651-228-1172 x36 or write or-

gjre@gmail.com

Drum and Percussion Group

Our new percussion ensemble will be playing on a regular (monthly) basis. If you'd like to be a part of an ensemble please contact Kevin Wall at kevin-wall@gmail.com or call 651-690-1675.

Instrumental and Vocal Soloists

If you play an instrument and would like to play a solo, duet or other instrumental music during our church services (preludes, communion, postludes) please contact Jayson Engquist (x36). Accompaniment may be provided (either piano or organ) for solo instrument players.

Christmas Pageant

It's that time again to prepare for the annual St. John's Christmas Pageant, and Heather Hunt and I would like to invite your children to participate. The Christmas Pageant will be presented during the 10am service on Sunday, January 3rd.

There are speaking and non-speaking parts, songs, animals, scripture quotes, something for everyone. The roles include: The Narrator, Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, Star, Innkeepers, Shepherds, Sheep, Beasts, Angels, Pages, and the Three Kings.

Please come to the choir room **Sunday, December 13, 11:30-12:30** - We'll do a read through of the script, practice songs in church, and sign-up for parts. If you can't be there for the read through, you can still be in the Pageant. Please email Heather Hunt to let her know your child's name and what group they would like to be in, hhuntenp@gmail.com.



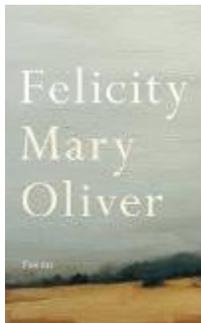
Faith Formation

Advent read

"Why do people keep asking to see God's identity papers when the darkness opening into morning is more than enough?" (Mary Oliver, *Felicity*)

Please join us in this Advent season as we read Mary Oliver's new collection, *Felicity*. In these poems, she meditates on love and nature, describing with joy the strangeness and wonder of human connection. *The New York Times Book Review* says, "There is no complaint in Ms. Oliver's poetry, no whining, but neither is there the sense that life is in any way easy . . . These poems sustain us rather than divert us. Although few poets have fewer human beings in their poems than Mary Oliver, it is ironic that few poets also go so far to help us forward."

Copies of the book will be available at Saint John's; a donation of ten dollars is appreciated but not required. We will join parishioners from Saint Mary's and Saint Clement's for a contemplative Eucharist, discussion, and dessert at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church (1895 Laurel Ave, St Paul, MN 55104) at 7pm on January 3.



Epiphany Retreat

Save the date! Our Epiphany retreat will be Saturday, January 9 at Saint Clement's Episcopal Church from 9am-3pm. More information to come.

House Groups

House groups are a place to share our lives and journey together. They are gatherings of 8-12 members that meet regularly for friendship, spiritual support, and building deeper relationships. Do you wish for a deeper spiritual conversation and have no time during the week? Are Saturdays or Sundays your Sabbath time? **Please contact Kate Bradtmiller if you are interested in being part of a spiritual group that meets on the weekends.** To explore how you and your friends can form a house group, connect with an existing group, or with others interested in forming a group, contact Kate at kate.bradtmiller@stjohnsstpaul.org.

Community Life

New Member Profiles

On Sunday, November 22 we welcomed 25 people to the St. John's family. Below are some of their bios, please say "Hi" and welcome these new parishioners to our community.

Emily, Craig, Genevieve, and Emmet Solid

The pews in the very back at St. John's are frequently populated by families with small children. Little voices pitch in to sing, and small ones bring smiles to faces as the sign of peace is given. Emily Solid and her family have taken up some of those spots and found a church home at St. John's.



Emily Pye Solid grew up in Minneapolis, but when she attended Hamline University for graduate school she bought a house and wound up setting roots in Saint Paul. Now she has been in the city for about ten years. She and her husband, Craig Solid (both graduates of St. Olaf College), live about a block from St. John's, and they love the neighborhood. "We can often be found walking around the St. John's neighborhood with our dog," she said. Emily takes long walks with her German Shorthair Pointer, Lady, and she runs errands on Grand Avenue nearly every day. Saint Paul is her city.

Emily used to work in marketing and publishing, but now she stays at home with her two children, Genevieve (2) and Emmett (7 mos). She thinks being a stay at home mom is a big challenge, but she really enjoys homemaking. She is an accomplished cook and baker, and she likes decorating, too. She says she used to do some event planning, and she finds it satisfying to make things nice. She keeps adding to her toolbox by learning new skills. For example, she has signed up to take a flower arranging class in the neighborhood and looks forward to creating beautiful arrangements. In addition to running her household, Emily plays tennis and golf around town.

The Solids came from St. Clement's, and, although they were very fond of the community, they really appreciate the larger size of the children's ministry here at St.

John's. They like having other families around with young children, and Genevieve in particular feels very strongly connected to St. John's (she is also a student at Crocus Hill Preschool). The family does not use the nursery much, but they value having it available when needed. Since Genevieve enjoys services so much they all stick together as a family-- in the back, where they can sneak out if needed! Emily mentioned that in the future she would consider helping with the youth ministries, but it is a ways off when things are more settled. "We are looking forward to putting our skills and talent to work for St. John's and the community," she offered.

One of the life events keeping things busy for the family is Craig's new business, a healthcare research firm called Solid Research Group. Emily helps Craig with a few things like copy editing and social media. It is difficult with the kids to commit to regular hours for him, but she jumps in when she can.

When the family does have free time, they like to be outside. Emily loves the summer, and Craig loves the fall. The pool is a favorite destination for them, and they look forward to swimming each year. Look for them at the neighborhood pools and tennis courts as soon as weather permits.

Emily said, "We are excited to make St. John's our new church home." And we are excited to have you! It will be wonderful to see their little family grow.

Elise McCray and Colin Knisely

Elise and Colin came to St. John's after visiting three other Episcopal churches and are planning to be married here in July of next year. Both Elise and Colin were raised in the Catholic tradition but were looking for a different faith community when they found St. John's. They have really enjoyed the liturgy and the full choir. Elise reports that, "We always look forward to the sermons, no matter who is preaching that week".

The happy couple are both born and raised Midwesterners who have landed in the Twin Cities for graduate school; Elise is a law student at Hamline (soon to be Mitchell Hamline) and Collin studies creative writing at Metro State. They are very busy these days with school, getting ready for their wedding, learning how to cook, spoiling their cat and competing at video



games. Colin has retained his fascination with dinosaurs since childhood and has "pretty much memorized" Jurassic Park! He is also an expert on the old Japanese Godzilla movies.



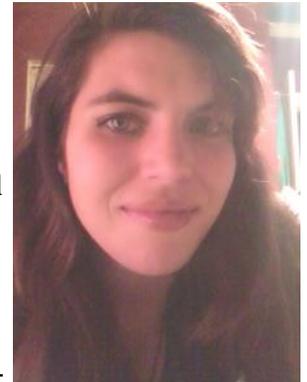
Rachel Bandli

Rachael Bandli moved to the Twin Cities last year following her completion of Law School in New York City. While she comes from an Evangelical background, she attended an Episcopal church in NYC, which seemed like a better fit for her. Upon arriving to St. Paul, she was initial-

ly drawn to St. John's because of the music, but in the end continued to come because of the friendly community. Rachael grew up in northern Wisconsin on a dairy farm. She speaks German, enjoys reading, sewing, watching science fiction t.v. shows and movies, and plays the violin. She has graciously already started sharing her violin talents with us here at church! Now a days, despite her many talents and interests, she spends most of her time building her career as an attorney at a law firm in Minneapolis.

Christine Atchison

Christine Atchison has been attending St. John's for about a year now. She loves music and initially shared her own musical talents with us by singing in the choir. While she was unable to continue choir (because of her work schedule), she continues to attend the 10am worship service. Christine also loves classic movies, science, and a good philosophical conversation. She enjoys baking, dancing, fashion and most of all, laughing!



Christine grew up in rural Minnesota. She moved to the twin cities seven years ago and now lives with her long time partner Brent and their cat Misty. Christine is new to the Episcopal church and does her best to be involved in church activities. However she describes herself as an introvert and as a result many of us may not have met her yet. Please keep your eye out for Christine and give her a warm welcome next time you see her.

Look for more New Member Profiles in the next Evangelist.



Join us at the annual
St. John's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 5
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy an array of gourmet small plates prepared by St. John's own Top Chefs, wine, beer and festive non-alcoholic drinks. Please bring a favorite dessert to share from your cultural heritage, or your personal recipe book.

Vegetarian, dairy-free and gluten-free choices are available. Childcare is available.

Suggested cost: \$20/person. All are welcome regardless of ability to pay.

For event and/or childcare reservations call or email the church office:
651.228.1172 | church@stjohnsstpaul.org

Holy Apostles Invites St. John's Parish to Celebrate it's 10th Anniversary

Date: Sunday, December 13

Time: 4 pm, with entertainment, Compline and dinner following

Place: Holy Apostles Church
2200 East Minnehaha Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

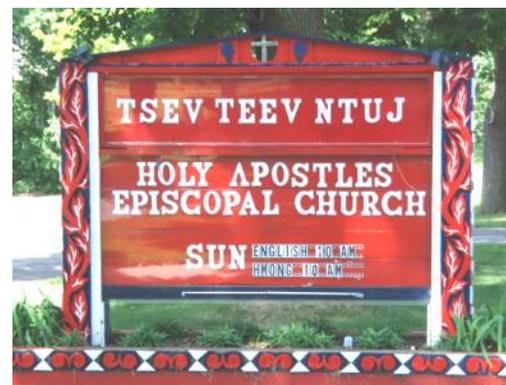
The Church of the Holy Apostles invites the parishioners of St. John's to join them in celebrating this milestone occasion. St. John's parish has walked side by side with the parish of the Holy Apostles for the past six years. Please continue this journey by attending this event and demonstrating our continued partnership in ministry. Holy Apostle asks that you RSVP by contacting one of the following:

Bai Xiong: bxiong2013@gmail.com; 612-743-5654

Ker Yang: kawm_yaaj@hotmail.com; 651-328-1179

It has been 10 years since the Episcopal Church received more than 200 Hmong faithful at St. Mark's Cathedral in November 2005. The Hmong Paj Ntaub (story cloths) recounts the journey of the Hmong people from Laos to the refugee camps in Thailand to the U.S. in our Judeo-Christian tradition, the prophets and the apostles teach us to remember and recite together God's faithful acts in history and share them with the next generation. Drawing from both of these traditions, we plan to do just that. On December 13 we will gather to remember and to tell the story of how the Holy Spirit brought the Hmong faithful to the Episcopal Church.

Holy Apostle also invites St. John's parish to join in their morning service of Holy Eucharist and Commissioning at 10:00 am. Bishop Brian Prior will preside and commission the Holy Apostle's Shared Ministry Team, which has been in formation for 3-1/2 years.



Intercessory Prayer

We are a community of prayer at Saint John the Evangelist. Many of us pray regularly in our daily lives, when in the moment or by praying at a certain time each day. Some of us use the Daily Office from the Book of Common Prayer to structure our prayer time; others meditate, walk, or read. We pray each week during compline and on Sunday mornings. During the Prayers of the People, we share silently and aloud those for whom our whole community is praying. We say the names of individuals, communities, and nations, acknowledging our place in the circle of caring of which God is the center. We pray through knitting prayer shawls, making music, discussing scripture, and serving in our neighborhoods. We also have the quiet ministry of the prayer chain, whose members hold in confidence those who ask for prayer. I invite you, in this Advent season, to think about the ways you pray, and whether you might be called to participate in one of the many ministries of prayer at Saint John's that is new to you, whether prayer shawls or choir or prayer chain.

–Kate Bradtmiller

Holy Apostle Says Thank You!

Dear St. John's Community:

The Community of The Holy Apostles set a goal to raise \$10,000 in order to renovate and purchase new materials for our Youth Center and program. I am excited to report that we have surpassed half of our goal, raising \$5,444.44! We would like to thank you for opening your heart and your doors to allow us to fund-raise at St. John's. I am pleased to announce that through our Egg Roll and Craft fundraiser events on September 13 and 27 we raised a total of \$2,232.29. In addition, we have received generous gifts (cash, a kitchen play set & some kitchen play accessories) from your parishioners.

We are eager to start the renovation process, yet are unfortunately delayed due to the results of a building inspection showing spores of mold. Before we move forward with the renovation we will remedy the mold issues, ensuring the health and wellbeing of our children, our parishioners and guests at Holy Apostles. We will be happy to provide updates and share pictures of our final renovation in the future.

We will continue to raise money to reach our \$10,000.00 goal; please look forward to other fundraiser events to support the youth program at Holy Apostles.

Again, thank you and God be with you.

Best always,

Yer Yang, Chair

Children's Project

December Meetings

Prayer Shawl Gathering: Wednesday, December 2 at 9:30 am in the Gathering Space. Contact Anneke Krall at 651-248-8932.

Men's Breakfast: Tuesday, December 12 at 9am in the Gym Kitchen. Contact Jim Johnson at 651-698-5655.

Down Syndrome Support Group: Tuesday, December 15 at 6pm in the Gathering Space. Contact Ellison Yahner at ellisonyahner@gmail.com.

Vestry Meeting: Monday, December 21 at 6pm in the Fireside Room. Contact Don Postema, 651-485-9632.

Congratulations to...

Ellie (Saint John's Communications Assistant) and David on the birth of their twins Calvin Arondeus and Cordelia Borlaug



Parishioner James Ryan who graduated from law school in May and recently passed the Minnesota State Bar.



And Chili Bowl Winners Michelle Wall, Jennifer Kinkead, and Laura Dale Bishof



Happy Birthday to...

December*

1	Andrew Johnson		Jody Dueber	22	Ellie Watkins
	Matthew Richards	13	Roan Weinkauff	23	Vern Kassekert
	Adam Ross	14	Phyllis Frisby	24	Elizabeth Brown
	Bob Yeager	15	Alison Young Rasch		Henry Sluka
3	Barbara McGowan		Charles Beattie	25	Mary Probst Morrison
	Lucille DeCoux		John Thompson		Isabella Frost
	Neil Grace		Caleb Olson	26	Walt Cygan
	Inge Bischof		Brett Berry		Claire Eckley
4	Beth Kendall	16	Delaney Grundhauser		Holly Weinkauff
	Niah Weber		Alden Drew	28	Leo Dueber
5	Antay Bilgutay		Sarah Reynolds		Neil Elliott
	Troy Stack-Nelson	17	Thomas Edman		Cathy Grundhauser
6	Kate Nicholson		Joan Potter		Catherine Nicholson
	Elliot Wall	18	Gary Gleason	30	Laura Kochevar
7	Aurelia Hance		Frank Wiecher	31	Imogen Clamons
8	Heather Joyce		Caroline Sullivan		Ian Dobson
9	Mary Ellen Elliott	19	Virginia Wilson		Jill Ross
10	Tom Murakami		Lisa Hertle		
11	Sue Cadwell	20	Henry Snyder		
			Crosby Sommers		

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

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

December 6 - 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 13 - The Third Sunday of Advent

Main and Small Altars: Charles Read Gleason, Laura Virginia Millis Gleason

December 20 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Main and Small Altars: The Right Reverend Robert Marshall Anderson

December 25 - The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Main Altar: Thomas and Betty Garrett, Louise S. Andrews, Martha and Gustav Seeger, John Seeger

December 27 - The First Sunday after Christmas

Main Altar: Jerry Wagner, Cynthia S. McIntosh
Small Altar: William E. Ward Jr.

Altar Guild Teams

December 6: Dusty Mairs, Shirley Cooper, Phyllis Frisby, Patty Bryne Pfalz, Phillip Baird, Bill Sherfy

December 13: Heather Joyce, Pam Strom, Kathy Brown, Sue Cadwell, Shirlee Gooch, Sue MacIntosh

December 20: Pat Brynstedson, Caroline Krall, Nan Lightner, Phyllis Merrill, Elaine Sutton, Jill Thompson

December 27: Diane Power, Paige Hagstrom, Sarah K. Smith, Sabine Krall, Ginny Schauss, Terri Fischel

Altar Flowers 2015

Memorial flowers on the Main and Little Sanctuary altars are given by parishioners on a perpetual calendar basis. A few Sundays are 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 what dates are open for each altar.

St. John the Evangelist December 2015 Service Schedule

TIME	READERS	USHERS	GREETERS	COFFEE HOUR	ACOLYTES
December 6 - The Second Sunday of Advent					
8:00 am	Craig Lindeke	Bob Bauman Mary and Peter Gilbertson	Barbara Lindeke Suzanne McInroy Judy Southwick	Godly Play Families	Matt Brooks Charlie Docherty Will Rinkoff Thea Bishof
10:00 am	A—Judy Southwick B—Don Postema	Kathleen Hanson			
December 13 - The Third Sunday of Advent					
8:00 am	Joan McCanna	John MacBain Kevin Wall Holly and Don Weinkauf	Kathleen Hanson Don Postema Gabrielle Lawrence	Dean and Marie Henderson	Helen Baxter Roan Weinkauf Charlie Olson Chris Olson Aidan Schmidt
10:00 am	A—Terry Dinovo B—Diane Wallace-Reid				
December 20 - The Fourth Sunday of Advent					
8:00 am	David Aylesworth	Patty Pflalz Byrne Marvin Cadwell Terri Fischel Alex Joyce	Jennifer Kinkead Sally Sand Don Weinkauf	Alden Drew and Mimie Pollard	Madeline Weinkauf Eli Weinkauf Tessa Johnson Maren Johnson Elliot Wall
10:00 am	A—Holly Stoerker B—Carole Selin				
December 27 - The First Sunday of Christmas					
8:00 am	Brad McCanna	George and Mason Kinkead Jennifer and Peter Rosendale	Cammie Beattie Ella Slade Jerry Woelfel	Marilyn Conklin	Tim Krall Caroline Krall Linnea Krall Sabine Krall
10:00 am	A—Shirley Sailors B—Keith Davis				

Thank You for the Wednesday Night Dinners

Jesus shared meals with people – all sorts of different people. It was about fellowship – which is what we share with each other in our Christian community. Sharing a meal together on Wednesday nights is a way for us to remember Christ, and to be reminded of His continued presence with us through the Holy Spirit.

Youth Dinner Schedule

December 2: Baxter Family

December 9: Spencer/Sommer Family

*Dinner begins at 6:30pm. Please bring dinner for 25 people. Paper products are available at church.



St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church
60 Kent Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102
www.stjohnsstpaul.org
Join us for Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 am Sundays

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THE EVANGELIST
DECEMBER 2015