Dear Friends in Christ,

In his book *The Womb of Advent*, Mark Bozzuti-Jones correlates the development of a baby in the womb, of Jesus yet unborn and growing inside Mary, with the season of Advent. Both pregnancy and Advent bear within them messages of expectancy and waiting. As Jones describes, our entire lives and faith are connected to and flow out of the imagery of birth. He writes that “[i]t is not just the feast of Christmas that is built upon a birth; in truth, the whole of Christianity stands on this fact that a Child was born for us. Everything began with a birth…”

Like the time before a birth, the season of Advent can become cluttered with busyness and hurry – we rush about preparing for the holiday, making food, showing up for all the parties and activities, and fulfilling all of the responsibilities that our friends, family, the wider culture—even our church—expects of us. And, as with a pregnancy, we can become so consumed with working and doing, that we forget the most essential and important acts of preparation come with stillness and quiet. Advent, like pregnancy, is as much about being as it is about doing. An expectant mother knows, or so I’ve been told, that it is in those rare moments of rest and solitude when the world is hushed and she is at peace, that she begins to have a deeper and more profound sense of connection with, and a longing to know more fully, the life growing within her.

So it is in Advent. If we intentionally create space to sit with our thoughts, to focus our prayers, to listen for the still small voice—the sense of interconnectedness with the Divine life being born anew in our lives will become all the more palpable and real. And, creating space is not easy in this complicated world. But, we can work on it with small steps.

Light a candle and say a prayer with your evening meals. Use the Book of Common Prayer’s Daily Devotions. Journal your dreams in the morning. Set aside time at the dinner table to share with your family your “desolations and consolations” – what Ignatian Spirituality calls those moments of joy during the day when we might have felt God drawing near, and those low moments of isolation and darkness when we may have felt the absence of God. Take a small retreat – even for a day or half a day. Use an Advent wreath and the accompanying devotions. Pause to pray over some artwork that speaks of God in our lives. Schedule 10 minutes a day during lunch or in the afternoon for meditation or Centering Prayer.

Whatever you choose, find time this season to let go of some of what might be cluttering your life, and take on some habits and spiritual disciplines that might open you up to the beautiful and wonderful truth that once again God is coming into our lives as one who is vulnerable and full of light for the world.

I pray that yours will be a blessed and holy Advent and that you will have a very merry Christmas!

Faithfully,

January Issue
December 12 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 above. 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

Come... Join Us!

Sundays
8:00 am Service:
Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00 am Service:
Sung Eucharist Rite II
9:00 Sunday Forum
(Fireside Room)
9:00 St. John’s Café
(Meditation Room)
9:00 Adult Choir Rehearsal
(Chancel)
9:00 Children’s Choir Rehearsal
(Music Room)
9:45 Godly Play (Gathering
Space & Classrooms)
11:15 Coffee Hour
(Gathering Space)

From the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson

In his book *The Womb of Advent*, Mark Bozzuti-Jones correlates the development of a baby in the womb, of Jesus yet unborn and growing inside Mary, with the season of Advent. Both pregnancy and Advent bear within them messages of expectancy and waiting. As Jones describes, our entire lives and faith are connected to and flow out of the imagery of birth. He writes that “[i]t is not just the feast of Christmas that is built upon a birth; in truth, the whole of Christianity stands on this fact that a Child was born for us. Everything began with a birth…”

Like the time before a birth, the season of Advent can become cluttered with busyness and hurry – we rush about preparing for the holiday, making food, showing up for all the parties and activities, and fulfilling all of the responsibilities that our friends, family, the wider culture—even our church—expects of us. And, as with a pregnancy, we can become so consumed with working and doing, that we forget the most essential and important acts of preparation come with stillness and quiet. Advent, like pregnancy, is as much about being as it is about doing. An expectant mother knows, or so I’ve been told, that it is in those rare moments of rest and solitude when the world is hushed and she is at peace, that she begins to have a deeper and more profound sense of connection with, and a longing to know more fully, the life growing within her.

So it is in Advent. If we intentionally create space to sit with our thoughts, to focus our prayers, to listen for the still small voice—the sense of interconnectedness with the Divine life being born anew in our lives will become all the more palpable and real. And, creating space is not easy in this complicated world. But, we can work on it with small steps.

Light a candle and say a prayer with your evening meals. Use the Book of Common Prayer’s Daily Devotions. Journal your dreams in the morning. Set aside time at the dinner table to share with your family your “desolations and consolations” – what Ignatian Spirituality calls those moments of joy during the day when we might have felt God drawing near, and those low moments of isolation and darkness when we may have felt the absence of God. Take a small retreat – even for a day or half a day. Use an Advent wreath and the accompanying devotions. Pause to pray over some artwork that speaks of God in our lives. Schedule 10 minutes a day during lunch or in the afternoon for meditation or Centering Prayer.

Whatever you choose, find time this season to let go of some of what might be cluttering your life, and take on some habits and spiritual disciplines that might open you up to the beautiful and wonderful truth that once again God is coming into our lives as one who is vulnerable and full of light for the world.

I pray that yours will be a blessed and holy Advent and that you will have a very merry Christmas!

Faithfully,
From the Reverend Kate Bradtmiller

Dear friends in Christ,

In this season of expectant waiting, taking time away from the chaos and clutter of our lives is an intentional act. We have the opportunity to make space in our own lives as we watch with Mary for the birth of the Christ child.

Here at St. John’s there are several opportunities to create a quiet space to listen for God: making Advent wreaths on November 30th for rituals at home, worshipping at Compline on Thursday evenings, and the Advent retreat on December 5 and 6.

I want to invite you especially to the Advent retreat, where we will, through prayer, worship, meditation, and art, nurture that space within ourselves that listens for the still, small voice of God, for the first cry of Christ in the world.

There is more information about the retreat (left) and I would encourage you to speak with either Sarah Stengle or myself to find out more.

Faithfully yours,
Kate
Meeting Race and Inequality as Christians
Sunday Forum Series

Following the fall formation series “The Basics”, the Formation Commission, in collaboration with our parish clergy, have created a six week formation series entitled “Meeting Race and Inequality as Christians”. As crises and tragedies centered in ethnicity and race continue to occur around the world—think of the clashes between ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East, ISIS, the ongoing events in Ferguson, Missouri and South Chicago, Illinois, or conflicts over immigration—we are confronted with how we are to faithfully respond as Christians in our context. What resources does our tradition provide as we challenge structures and heal the brokenness of our divided world?

December 7 – Believing and Belonging in the New Testament

Eric Barreto, graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary (masters) and Emory University (doctoral) is an Associate Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, ordained to the Gospel Ministry in the Baptist Church, and attends Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Working from his book Ethnic Negotiations Eric addresses issues of diversity and difference in the context of the early church. His talk will look both at those early attempts at living with diversity and relate it to our present context where diversity is on the rise, inviting us to see difference as a gift from God to be embraced and not a problem to be solved.

December 14 – Rising Above: Empowering Youth to Make Positive Choices, Increase Self-respect, and Develop a Vision for the Future

Trent Tucker is an NBA Champ (6th round draft to the Knicks, 1982), radio host, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and athletic director for Minneapolis Public Schools. He will share his experiences and thoughts about growing up African American, playing sports at a major university and starring in the NBA. An inspiring and motivational speaker, Trent will tell you he took the position at Minneapolis Public Schools to give back to the community from which he received so much.

December 21 – Insiders and Outsiders: Race, Ethnicity, and Community Identity in the Old Testament

Continued on p. 12

Next Baptism Sunday January 11

If you are interested in getting baptized or having a child baptized, please contact the Reverend Jered Weber-Johnson at 651-228-1172, x11 to set up a time to meet. The next baptism day after January 11 will happen on Saturday, April 4, at the Vigil of Easter.

The Role of Visual Art in Spiritual Practice: Objects of Devotion

Sarah Stengle has organized an exhibit in the Gallery (outside the Fireside Room) featuring objects belonging to members of our congregation that have religious or spiritual meaning for them. The goal is to promote discussion of the role of visual art in worship. We got a great response to our call for submissions and there are a variety of works on display. The exhibit will run from November 30 into January. Please stop by and take a look.

Hanging of the Greens

Join us Wednesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm. 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.

Valet Parking

The Men’s Group is offering valet parking starting at 9:00 am each Sunday. Avoid walking on the icy sidewalks from the parking lot if you are concerned about slips or falls. Just pull up to the door and someone will park your car for you.
Rooted in Hospitality

by Barbara Mraz

Moving from the Roman Catholic Church of his youth to a fledgling Episcopal mission in Eagan was freeing, according to Jerry Woelfel. “I knew I didn’t want to be Catholic any more,” he says. “It was a liberating shift to move on.”

Jerry grew up in Bloomington in a family of five boys and went on to attend Macalester College. He has two daughters, Jennifer who works for Target, and Jill who is in marketing in New York City.

Jerry has spent most of his professional life at Securian Financial, working in the Human Resources division. He has been involved with hiring, training, employee salary and benefit administration and organization design. He describes the hardest part of his job as having to say no and getting people to understand why. He has done a good share of individual counseling and has enjoyed “helping people define success.”

He retired last year and now enjoys not only the family lake home in Wisconsin but also his part-time summer job at Mendakota Golf Course. “My job is basically to be hospitable and welcoming at the first tee. Golf is also a passion so it’s a good place to work.”

Jerry’s connection with the Episcopal Church began accidentally. In 1989, while knee-deep in a hole in his front yard, planting a tree in front of his family’s home in Eagan, a friendly voice beckoned, “Hello. I’m George Martin. Have you found a church home yet?”

The Rev. George Martin was specially selected by Bishop Jelinek to “plant” the Episcopal Church of Martha and Mary in the growing suburb of Eagan. He was gifted at growing churches and forthright and confident about walking suburban neighborhoods and inviting people to church. He would go on to write a book about evangelism.

In Jerry’s case, it worked.

At that point, Martha and Mary held its services in an elementary school gym. Jerry eventually served on the vestry, worked on a capital campaign to put up a building, and even took part in some Saturday morning door-knocking. “George taught us to say a little prayer as we went up the walk and to remember that we have no idea what’s going on in the life of the person who opens the door. And to be open and hospitable.”

By 1998, Jerry’s first marriage had ended and he left Eagan. When he met his future wife, Becky Garthofner, she attended Como Park Lutheran (although she was raised in the Russian Orthodox Church). They married and moved to a condo in the Crocus Hill neighborhood. They were out walking on Christmas Eve and they went by St. John’s. The door was open, the music could be heard outside, and they tiptoed in.

Jerry and Becky both worked with Jim Johnson at Securian Financial. Jim invited Jerry to the Men’s Breakfast group and later invited them both to the annual Christmas Party where Jerry connected with some fellow Macalester graduates and found the evening delightful and hospitable.

Jerry and Becky both became involved at St. John’s. Becky is in the handbell choir, has worked on diocesan committees, and served as senior warden. Jerry serves as chair of the Personnel Committee and as junior warden on the vestry.

On Sunday, November 16, 2014, 25 years after that Saturday morning when The Rev. George Martin issued an invitation to a stranger planting a tree in his front yard, the process came full circle. Jerry was formally received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Prior. On this same day, he celebrated his 60th birthday.

And those of us at St. John’s continue to be grateful for this good man, so generous with his energy, kindness, and hospitable heart.
Dear Friends,

The first snows have fallen, and by the time this reaches your homes many of you will have a fridge full of Thanksgiving leftovers, and closets full of presents to wrap. In the church Advent is upon us, and we are preparing once again for the coming of the Christ child into the world and into our lives. At St. John’s our annual pledge campaign is nearing a close. Our final Sunday is December 7, and as the speaker that morning for the Stewardship Reflection it will be my task to remind you of the goal set for us in the Strategic Plan, that we would “deepen ...a culture of stewardship” and robustly support and fund the programs, ministries, and overall mission of St. John’s (as articulated in the Collect for St. John’s). Achieving these goals will not be easy – but through your generosity we will continue our excellence in preaching and music, faith formation, and serving those most in need in our community.

So far this year we are well on our way to the goal of raising $550,000 from 200 pledges – a 3% increase from 2014. So, where do we stand? At the time of printing we have:

- Total Dollars Pledged – $323,365
- Total Number of Pledges – 83
- New Pledges – 10
- Increased Pledge from 2014 – 35
- Average Pledge – $3,896
- Time and Talent Pledges – 19

Thank you for your generosity and commitment to St. John’s. It is only by our combined giving – of time and talent and treasure – that we are in any way able to show forth our service to God in our service to others, through the body of Christ at St. John’s. In this season of giving I am so grateful for all you have given and continue to give to and through this community.

Blessings to you and yours this Advent!

Faithfully,

Tony Grundhauser
Stewardship Chair

---

100 Years Ago at St. John’s

(From The Evangelist, December 26, 1914—proving once again how little things change)

A Modern Soliloquy

A funny side can be found to almost everything if it is looked for. That humor attaches even to the usually depressing subject of the parochial treasury is evidenced in the following lines by J.D. McMillan in “Men and Missions”:

To pledge or not to pledge! That is the question.
Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to take
The Gospel free, and another man foot the bill,
Or sign a pledge and pay toward the church expenses!
To give, to pay—ay, there's the rub—to pay!
When on the free pew plan a man may have
A sitting free and take the Gospel too,
As though he paid, and none be aught the wiser
Save the vestry committee, who—
Most honorable men—can keep a secret.
To err is human; human too to buy
At cheapest rate. I'll take the Gospel so;
For others do the same—a common rule.
I'm wise; I'll wait, not work; I'll pray, not pay,
And let the other fellow foot the bills.
Faith in Action

Biennial Cabaret

An evening of magic touched St. John the Evangelist with the 2nd Biennial Cabaret and Auction, providing a fantastic opportunity for all of us to watch our friends showcase their talents. We were captivated by beautiful voices, the ability to deliver a punch line, the joyous performances of families and skillful instrument performances. What fun to gather with friends and family to simply enjoy a festive evening together. Thank you to all of the performers, the youth, and to all who attended: everyone made it happen.

The Cabaret itself was inspired by a commitment to raise both money and awareness of the Youth Group Pilgrimage and St. John’s Clinic Kayoro, two causes that we hold so close to our hearts. We bid on live and silent auction items, bought chances to go home with fabulous wine selections, gift cards and chances to win a beautiful strand of black pearls. There was even a competition for the SJE member who brought the most guests who were new to SJE.

Thank you all for donating your creative and generous items to the auction. So far we have raised $9,300 and there are still donations coming in. The final sum will be split evenly between the Youth Pilgrimage and St. John’s Clinic Kayoro, with designated fund-a-need going directly to those causes.

A highlight was our Cabaret emcee, John Hines, WCCO radio personality and brother of Jean Hansen, who pulled together all of the pieces for a fantastic event. Dressed in a tux to set the tone for a gala event, John generously donated his time, wine for our auction, and a tour of WCCO plus lunch with him! He was wonderful! Thank you John Hines.

Thank you, as well, to the team that stepped forward, pouring time and energy and a sense of humor into making the Cabaret a success: Cammie Beattie, Joan Potter, Colleen Swope, Therese Anderson of Give Us Wings, Lea Anne Schmidt and Alden Drew. You got it done and made it fun. Thank you to our musicians, Jayson Engquist and Carole Selin. Thank you also to our clergy Jered Weber-Johnson, Kate Brandtmiller, Barbara Mraz and Margaret Thor for your help and support. Also thanks to Chris Tegler, Sarah Dull, Ellie Watkins, and John Oldfield for the essential staff support that made this event possible.

We loved working on the St. John’s 2nd Biennial Cabaret and Auction and look forward to creating another evening of entertainment and philanthropy in 2015!

Thank you.

Jean Hansen and Jennifer Kinkead
Cabaret Co-Chairs

Project Home Starts Feb. 2

During the month of February, St. John the Evangelist will provide homeless families with a place to sleep, snacks and hosts with compassion for their present situation.

We need four volunteers each day to help provide these services—two evening volunteers from 5:30-8:30 pm and two overnight volunteers from 8:30 pm -7:30 am. Training will be available.

A sign up link is on the church website at stjohnsstpaul.org/faith-in-action/project-home. To learn more about this important ministry, please contact Holly or Don Weinkauf, Steve Sims or Margaret Thor. Holly, Don, Margaret and Steve will also help people sign up on Sundays.

Contact info:
Holly and Don Weinkauf
651-724-5200 betterwein@gmail.com
Steve Sims
952-484-9292 swiss7615@msn.com
Margaret Thor
651-631-8308 margaretcthor@gmail.com

Faith in Action Meeting - Thursday, December 11 at 5:30 pm in the Undercroft. To learn more, contact Colleen Swope at ccswope50@gmail.com.

Hearts to Homes Meeting - Monday, January 26 at 5:00 pm in the Fireside Room. To learn more, contact Patty Byrne Pfalz at 651-224-7784.
Mission Trip to Kayoro

Dear Friends,

As we approach this season of giving, we at St. John’s find ourselves especially blessed. Give To The Max day recently occurred, the Stewardship campaign is well underway, and our thoughts turn to giving to our friends and families in the spirit of Christmas.

At St. John’s you have been incredibly generous. In particular your generosity has led to the building and support of St. John’s Clinic Kayoro in Uganda. We have several parishioners who are prepared to travel with Give Us Wings in January 2015, to visit the people of Kayoro and build our relationship with them. This trip is not possible for everyone, but it is a trip that has called some of our congregation. While working with the people of Kayoro, we will be training on equipment designed to make the processing of grain more efficient and productive, we will be teaching at the clinic and where we are able, and we will be listening and learning so that we can help ensure better health, improve education and increase the standard of living in Kayoro, Uganda.

Two of our travelers feel called to travel to Uganda on behalf of our congregation but are in need of financial assistance to add to the contribution they are able to make to their travel expenses. As you are considering your financial contribution in the weeks to come, please consider adding a contribution to the Kayoro Restricted Fund to be used to assist these travelers. This can be done with a direct donation made to "Kayoro Restricted Fund, St. John’s" or by adding an amount to your pledge to be payable over the year, again, designating the amount beyond your pledge to the Kayoro Restricted Fund.

The time and work of the travelers is an important component of our ongoing relationship with St. John’s Kayoro Health Center. I hope that you will join me in supporting this work.

Thank you.

Jennifer Kinkead, Cammie Beattie, and Bob Horn

Holiday Cards

Once again, beautiful Christmas cards are available for purchase to benefit the St. John’s Clinic in Kayoro Village, Uganda. The cards feature the photography of Aimee Baxter. Inside, the text reads, “A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices. For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.” They are 5 x 7 and cost $15 per pack of 10 cards. They will be sold after services on Sunday mornings.

St. John’s Christmas Giving Tree

St John’s will participate 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 lists on tags from each member of participating families.

Wish tags are hanging on the Christmas tree located at the back of the church. Tags will remain on the tree until all have been chosen.

There are many ways you can participate: you can select however many tags you wish to fulfill, or donate funds to either purchase $50 Cub food certificates or 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 12. There they will be wrapped and distributed in time for a Christmas celebration.

This year, we have committed to providing gifts and $50 grocery certificates for 14 families in the YWCA Support Services.
“Chili Bowl” Cook-off Results

At the 3rd annual H2H Chili Bowl, a record breaking 19 people entered chili in the contest. It was a heated competition, but after tasting, re-tasting, and lots of chili chatter, winners were determined.

White Chili Winner - Jennifer Kinkead (yes, again!)
Red Chili Winner - Alden Drew

We collected several household goods as well as $573 for our H2H families! Thank you to everyone who cooked, tasted and donated. Next year, in addition to the red and white chili categories, we will add a vegetarian category. Start working on your recipes for 2015!

Alden Drew’s Winning Red Chili Recipe

“This is based on a recipe from recipetineats.com. The secret is using brisket and cutting it into bite-sized pieces after it’s shredded. I also upped the seasoning” from what’s printed in the recipe below. It freezes very well and lasts for up to 3 months.

Ingredients

- 3 15oz/400g cans red kidney beans, drained
- 28oz/800g can crushed or diced tomato
- ⅛ cup tomato paste
- 1 cup water or beef stock
- 3 tsp salt, separated (plus more to taste)
- Black pepper

Instructions

1. Cut the beef into two equal size pieces so you have two pieces roughly the same size. Season the beef with 1 tsp salt and a good grind of black pepper.
2. Heat olive oil in a fry pan over high heat. Add the onion and bell peppers and sauté until caramelized, around 2 to 3 minutes. Transfer into the slow cooker.
3. Return fry pan to high heat and add the beef. Sear the beef on all sides until well browned. Remove the beef and place into the slow cooker.
4. Pour the 1 cup of water into the fry pan and bring to simmer, scraping the bottom of the pan to mix the brown bits in. Pour the water into the slow cooker with the beef, making sure to get all the brown bits into the slow cooker.
5. Add the remaining ingredients into the slow cooker.
6. Cook on high for 8 hours. This will make the beef “fall apart” at a touch.
7. Remove beef from slow cooker and shred with two forks. Cut into bite-sized pieces. Return shredded beef to slow cooker.
8. Adjust seasoning to taste with salt and pepper, and serve.
Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Pick-up pageant on January 4, 2015 (Second Sunday after Christmas)

This year’s Christmas pageant will include gospel readings with carols and a full cast of characters. Because this is a pick-up pageant, we’re encouraging first-time participants, particularly families, to grab a costume to join our base cast and be in the pageant. If you are interested, there are many opportunities for involvement, including cast members, narrators, costume creation, and advertising. If you have question or comments, please join us for a parent meeting on Sunday, December 7 at 11:30am.

Lessons and Carols December 21

We also need the help of all children, youth and families, for Lessons and Carols is sure to be a new family tradition. This service is at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 21. Child care is available, but the service is very child-friendly. It will include a special lesson for youth; also, children, youth and families will have the amazing job of setting up the crèche during Lessons and Carols! What a way to get ready for the birth of Christ! Finally, during the reception afterwards, youth will help decorate the Christmas tree in the Fireside Room with the ornament templates enclosed in your Christmas mailing. Join us for a wonderful time.

December Dinner Schedule

December 3: Krall Family
December 10: Baxter Family
December 17: Allen Family

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.

Dinner begins at 6:15pm. Please bring dinner for 30 people. Paper products are available at church.

Report from Our Composer in Residence

by Paul Rudoi

The Composer-in-Residence program is off to a great start! Joan Potter, a long-time member of St. John’s and a vocalist in the adult choir, is the first person to commission music. The setting of the Magnificat and Nunc dimittis, dedicated to her four sons, may premiere at an upcoming Evensong. Following that, I will begin working on a set of Preces, Responses, and Suffrages, dedicated to St. John’s, which may also be used for a winter Evensong.

In addition to these two projects, I will be creating an anthem for Spring 2015 that will include a parts for bell choir, the adult choir, and possibly the children’s and youth choirs. I’m looking forward to connecting these wonderful ensembles in a way that capitalizes on all their strengths!

Lastly, I’ve always wanted to write hymns for St. John’s ever since I joined the choir six years ago, so I’m aiming to write several hymns (with descants!) in the coming months as well.

I’m looking forward to creating music with the congregation throughout this 2014-2015 liturgical calendar. If you’d like more information on my work or the Composer-in-Residence program, contact me at pauljohnrudoi@gmail.com or 603-355-7429.
Liturgy for Advent

During the season of Advent (beginning Nov. 30, 2014) our Opening Acclamation will be offered from the back of the church for this season. Advent is considered a season of looking ahead towards Christmas and Epiphany. Often our services take on an “expectant” and more “penitent” flavor.

Do You Play the Recorder?

We would like to consider having a “consort” of recorders. They could play occasionally in worship (Christmas, Easter, etc.). If you play the recorder, please speak with Jayson Engquist at 651-228-1172, x36 or Jayson.Engquist@stjohnsstpaul.org

Compline

We will be offering the sung service of Compline (evening prayers) on three Thursdays evenings in December. On December 4, the St. John's Lay Clerks will lead the service (with Craig Lemming, officiant and Phillip Baird, verger). December 11 will be led by Lumina (the women of the Rose Ensemble). On December 18, we will hear Hymnos, a choral ensemble directed by one of our Lay Clerks, Eric Sorum. Please let your friends and neighbors know about these beautiful services. Incense is used during the service. The 30-minute prayer services begin at 7:00 pm. Light refreshments follow.

Annual Lessons and Carols

Plan to attend our special Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 21, 2014 at 4:00 pm. All of St. John’s choirs will be ringing and singing. You will be able to sing many of your favorite seasonal carols. At this child-friendly service, youth will read a special lesson and set up the crèche. Childcare is available. Please invite your friends and neighbors!

Composer in Residence 2014-2015

Our Composer in Residence program has begun. Composer (and member of SJE) Paul Rudoi is available for musical commissions. Paul will also be composing several new works for our church during the year as a gift to St. John's. As you may know, Paul was one of our section leaders in the adult choir and is singing and touring with Cantus. He worships with us when he is in town. See his update on page 10.

February Piano Concert

We are planning to celebrate our new Steinway grand piano with a concert in February 2015. We’d like to have members of St. John’s who have studied the piano for a number of years perform on this program, in addition to a recitalist we will be announcing soon. Watch for details from the Music Commission. Please contact Jayson Engquist if you're interested in playing.

Children’s and Youth Choirs

As you can hear, our new Director of Children’s and Youth Choirs, Mary Kay Knapp, has been rehearsing each week. May Kay is hoping to increase the number of singers in both groups. Youth Choir (grades 5-12) meets each Wednesday afternoon (5:30-6:15 pm). Children's Choir (grades K-4) meets on Sunday mornings (9:00-9:45 am) in the Music Room. If your child is interested, please contact Mary Kay at mkksings@gmail.com or 515-991-8757.

Handbell Choir

Our Handbell Choir rehearses each Tuesday evening at 5:45 pm and welcomes ringers of all ages. The ability to read music is helpful, but not required. Please contact Director Kate Graber if you are interested in joining the Handbell Choir at kate.graber@yahoo.com or 952-890-3616.
Faith Formation

Continued from p. 4

Elaine James is assistant professor of theology at St. Catherine University in St. Paul, specializing in Old Testament studies. She is a recent PhD grad from Princeton Theological Seminary and along with husband Nate and son Hank she is a new member at St. John’s. Elaine will explore the late biblical period and the attitudes toward “insiders” and “outsiders” and intermarriage especially as they occur in the books of Ruth and Ezra. She will help us consider what constitutes community identity and help us ask what the parallels are between those early communities and today’s issues pertaining to race and immigration.

December 28—No Forum

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, sometimes rotating among the members’ houses or meeting elsewhere. Some groups meet to study or have a common interest or focus, but all build community around our shared life of faith. Many groups meet monthly, but each group can determine how often to meet and what to do in their time together. To explore how you and your friends can form a house group, to find an existing group, or to connect with others who are interested in forming a group, contact the Rev. Kate Bradtmiller, at kate.bradtmiller@stjohnsstpaul.org or 651-228-1172, x18.

St. John’s Cafe

Come for the coffee, stay for the good news!
Join us Sundays at 9:00am in the Meditation Room as we discuss the lectionary gospel in the context of the week’s news.
All are welcome!

January 4 – A Different Vision of Christ: Being Hmong, Christian, and Immigrant in America

Many of us at St. John’s are familiar with the story of how Holy Apostles and St. John’s churches have come together over the years as companion parishes. Some of us are even familiar with the story of how Holy Apostles became the first Hmong majority parish in the Episcopal Church. What few of us know are the individual stories of immigrants and refugees from Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand, and first and second generation families in the States, and their struggle to claim Christian identity, preserve cultural boundaries, and survive in a rapidly changing world. Come hear the stories of members from Holy Apostles and how as a Christian community they are meeting race and inequality and reaching out to others beyond their walls.

January 18 – Redeeming a Prison Society: A Liturgical and Sacramental Response to Mass Incarceration

Amy Levad is assistant professor of moral theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. She has an extensive background in criminology and a Ph.D. in social ethics from Emory University. Amy writes “Mass incarceration has created a crisis ... that hits minority and economically-disadvantaged communities hard. Yet few Americans are aware of the threats to justice caused by locking up more than 2 million of our neighbors in prisons and jails.” This session will explore the causes and effects of mass incarceration and alternatives to jails and prisons. The sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation will ground a moral vision for how Christians can contribute to a movement for justice to redeem our prison society.

January 25 – The Table Where All Are Welcome: A Conversation with the ‘Food Truck Pastor’

Margaret Kelly is not your typical Lutheran Pastor. Director and pastor of Shobi’s Table, a food truck ministry that feeds hungry residents of eastside neighborhoods in Saint Paul, Margaret is also known to take church to the very same people she is feeding. As she told PBS’ Religion and Ethics Newsweekly recently, “People are hungry and I’m not trying to hold people hostage with the Bible ...God speaks for God’s self and I am simply here to share that message.” Like the Episcopal Church, the ELCA in which Kelly is a pastor, is relatively racially homogenous compared to the wider culture. Yet, the people and neighborhoods her ministry serves are racially and culturally diverse.
Community Life

OWLs Luncheon

If you are an OWL (Older, Wiser Laity), please mark your calendars for a luncheon to be held on Wednesday, December 10.

Come for Noonday Prayers at Noon in the Chapel, and then join your fellow OWLs in the Fireside room for a relaxing luncheon provided by St. John's clergy and staff.

The luncheon menu will be:
- Pork Tenderloin with Blackberry Sauce
- Butternut Squash
- Red Cabbage Slaw
- Breadsmith Breadsticks
- Apple Tart

Please let the church office know whether or not we can plan on enjoying luncheon with you. Call the office to RSVP at 651-228-1172 x10.

December Meetings

- **Prayer Shawl Gathering**: Wednesday, December 3 at 9:30 am in the Undercroft. Contact Anneke Krall at 651-690-0579.
- **Men's Breakfast**: Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 am in the Gym Kitchen. Contact Jim Johnson at 651-698-5655.
- **Men's Gathering**: Tuesday, December 9 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact Josh Colton at 612-275-6004.
- **Vestry Meeting**: Monday, December 15 at 6:00 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact Don Postema at 651-483-3062 or postema@comcast.net.
- **Down Syndrome Group**: Tuesday, December 16 at 6:00 pm in the Undercroft and Nursery. Contact Lindsay Radford, LRadford@kstp.com
- **Women's Gathering**: Tuesday, December 23 at 7:30 pm in the Fireside Room. Contact Erin Weber-Johnson at eweberjohnson@gmail.com or Lea Anne Schmidt at leaanne.schmidt@gmail.com.

Save the Date for the Annual St. John’s Christmas Party!

Celebrate the joy of the holiday season!

**Saturday, December 13**
- 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 three ways:
1. RSVP in church at the Ushers’ Desk or Gathering Space
2. Call the office at 651-228-1172, x10
3. Email parishevents@stjohnsstpaul.org

Suggested donation: $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 available (a reservation is required. Let us know how many children).

St. Mark's Cathedral Midweek Morning Meditation

St. John’s parishioner Keith Davis is an At Large member of the Spiritual Life Committee at St Mark's Cathedral, a resource for spiritual opportunities within and beyond the St Mark's community. The group offers weekly inspirational messages via email. The St. Mark’s Midweek Morning Meditation arrives in email boxes on Wednesday mornings. These messages, generated from diverse cultural and spiritual sources, may help provide a moment of calm reflection in hectic lives. Sign up for these reflections at ourcathedral.org. Click "Subscribe to Email News" in the Related News section on the right side of the page.
**Altar Decor Given to the Glory of God in Memory of:**

**December 7, the 2nd 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 14, the 3rd Sunday of Advent**
*Main Altar & Small Altar:* Charles Read Gleason, Laura Virginia Millis Gleason

**December 21, the 4th Sunday of Advent**
*Main Altar & 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 28, the 1st Sunday of Christmas**
*Main Altar:* OPEN  
*Small Altar:* William E. Ward Jr

---

**Altar Flowers 2014**

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.

---

**Happy Birthday to...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December *</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Andrew Johnson</td>
<td>Sue Cadwell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Matthew Richards</td>
<td>Jody Dueber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Adam Ross</td>
<td>Roan Weinkauf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bob Yeager</td>
<td>Phyllis Frisby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Barbara McGowan</td>
<td>David Lilly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Neil Grace</td>
<td>Alison Young Rasch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Inge Bischof</td>
<td>Charles Beattie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Beth Kendall</td>
<td>John Thompson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Niah Weber</td>
<td>Caleb Olson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>George Dow, Jr.</td>
<td>Brett Berry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Antay Bilgutay</td>
<td>Delaney Grundhauser</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Troy Stack-Nelson</td>
<td>Alden Drew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kate Nicholson</td>
<td>Sarah Reynolds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Elliot Wall</td>
<td>Thomas Edman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Aurelia Hance</td>
<td>Joan Potter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Heather Joyce</td>
<td>Gary Gleason</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mary Ellen Elliott</td>
<td>Frank Wiecher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Caroline Sullivan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lisa Hertle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Henry Snyder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 11         | 20          | Crosby Sommers |
| 13         | 22          | Ellie Watkins |
| 14         | 23          | Vern Kassekert |
| 15         | 24          | Elizabeth Brown |
| 16         | 25          | Henry Sluka |
| 17         | 26          | Mary Probst Morrison |
| 18         | 26          | Isabella Frost |
| 19         | 28          | Walt Cygan |
|            | 28          | Claire Eckley |
|            | 29          | Holly Weinkauf |
|            | 30          | Leo Dueber |
|            | 30          | Neil Elliott |
|            | 31          | Cathy Grundhauser |
|            | 31          | Catherine Nicholson |
|            | 31          | Laura Kochevar |
|            | 31          | Imogen Clamons |
|            | 31          | Ian Dobson |
|            | 31          | Jill Ross |

*If your birthday was missed, please call or email the church office so our records can be updated.
## St. John the Evangelist December 2014 Service Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Readers</th>
<th>Altar Guild Teams</th>
<th>Ushers</th>
<th>Greeters</th>
<th>Coffee Hour</th>
<th>Acolytes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 7, 2014—The Second Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Craig Lindeke</td>
<td>Pam Strom</td>
<td>Julia Ferguson</td>
<td>Cammie Beattie</td>
<td>Godly Play families</td>
<td>Johannah Frisby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gary Hagstrom</td>
<td>Gabrielle Lawrence</td>
<td></td>
<td>Thea Bishopf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Paige Hagstrom</td>
<td>Don Postema</td>
<td></td>
<td>Logan Finkel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Rick Rinkoff</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Will Rinkoff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>A–John Docherty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B–Jeff Olsen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 14, 2014—The Third Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Joan McCanna</td>
<td>Pat Brynteson</td>
<td>Pat Brynteson, PattyByrne Pfalz</td>
<td>Kathleen Hanson</td>
<td>Jeff Olsen &amp; Rick Olson Families</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Marvin Cadwell</td>
<td>Suzanne Mchnroy</td>
<td></td>
<td>Madeline Weinkauf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alex Joyce</td>
<td>Judy Southwick</td>
<td></td>
<td>Matt Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tessa Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Helen Baxter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>A–Terry Dinovo</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B–Gary Gleason</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 21, 2014—The Fourth Sunday of Advent</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>David Aylesworth</td>
<td>Diane Power</td>
<td>JayDebertin</td>
<td>Jeff Olsen</td>
<td>Alden Drew</td>
<td>Eli Weinkauf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alden Drew, Minhie Pollard</td>
<td>Peggy Olsen</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>John MacBain</td>
<td>Don Weinkauf</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ailsa Schmidt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Elliot Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>A–Shelley Sailors</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B–Keith Davis</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 24, 2014—Christmas Eve</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:30 pm</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Bob Horn</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Johannah Frisby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thea Bishopf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Matt Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Eli Weinkauf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 pm</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Wuyah Koroma</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Krall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bill Arbes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Caroline Krall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Laurie Arbes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linnea Krall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sabine Krall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 25, 2014—Christmas Day</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>Dick Lyman</td>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td></td>
<td>OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wuyah Koroma</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>December 28, 2014—The First Sunday of Christmas</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Brad McCanna</td>
<td>Dusty Mairs</td>
<td>George Kinkead</td>
<td>Jennifer Kinkead</td>
<td>Marilyn</td>
<td>Tim Krall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mason Kinkead</td>
<td>Lea Anne Schmidt</td>
<td>Conklin</td>
<td>Caroline Krall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jeff Olsen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Linnea Krall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Peggy Olsen</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sabine Krall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please Rush - Dated Material