



Everyone Welcome!

## A Vision for St. John's

BY REV. DANIEL C. GREEN

PEOPLE SOMETIMES ASK ME what my vision is for St. John's. It's been a hard question to answer because a vision takes time to develop, and time to communicate. It is not a plan of action, but a description of where we hope our actions will take us. It isn't about what we will do so much as about who we will be. As priest and pastor, it is part of my job to articulate a vision, but it can't be just something I think up on my own — it has to be something I listen for, in what others are saying, in my own heart, and in the conversations between us. During the four years I've been here we've had a lot of conversations about what matters most, and what we hope we are becoming. I have tried to listen carefully to what's been said. And during this year's season of discernment, I've made time for conversations with trusted friends about what I've learned and what inspires me to want to make a new commitment to the work of this congregation. I've also done some listening to what is being said in the wider Episcopal Church about its challenges and opportunities for the future.

What follows is the fruit of these conversations. It is a personal statement, and I don't claim to speak for everyone at St. John's. But I offer it to you in the hope that some part or parts of it will speak to you, and illuminate your vision for the parish. — Daniel+

St. John's is a place where people are drawn by the love of God, called to seek the divine image in themselves and one another; uniting in praise and thanksgiving at Christ's table, in contemplation and discernment, and in active works of wisdom, justice, beauty, and truth, we share

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## ADVENT 2014

### Advent Potluck Soup Supper



SUNDAY, NOV. 30, 5:30 PM

Make an Advent Wreath  
Special Guest for the Children!

See page 4 for more information.

## Advent Book Study

### THE WISDOM JESUS

by Cynthia Bourgeault

Our year-long study, *Who is Jesus?*, concludes with a compelling and provocative contemporary vision of Jesus as a master of the transformation of consciousness. See page 4 for more information.

Interfaith Sustainable Food  
Collaborative Fundraiser  
November 13 — See page 8



St. Michaelmas the Archangel Pageant *more photos on page 8*

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 here on earth in the joys of heaven. It is a place from which each of us is sent to find the unique vocation that grows from our responsibilities and gifts, and to play our part in the mission of Christ to the world. We are a circle from which no one who is not a danger to others is excluded, in which every voice is heard, and every truth respected, where no one is above criticism, and no one is beyond hope.

We foster a religious culture devoted to the maturation of our spiritual gifts and the satisfaction of our deepest needs by the grace of God — through taking creative risks, telling the truth, making repentance, seeking reconciliation, and empowering one another for servant-leadership in the world. We take nourishment from the testimony of the Hebrew prophets and sages and the Apostolic communities; from the teaching and example of holy women and men of the past and present; from the riches of Christian tradition in music and the arts, mysticism, theology, and social action; from our membership in a worldwide communion of Anglican brothers and sisters, and the ecumenical body of Christ; from the rhythms of the hours and the church year, and the sacramental elements of grace.

We are a place for joyous worship, with strong participation by people of all ages, representing the cultural diversity of our community, and bringing the talents of many leaders together in stirring, centering, prayerful, and purposeful celebrations of the Holy Spirit. We are a learning community practicing the arts of peace — compassionate dialogue, open inquiry, and courageous discipleship. We seek personal encounter across social, political, and religious barriers, in the shared pursuit of mutual understanding and the common good. We offer space for a deeper and kindlier look at the world in which we live, where simplicity and faith allow us to hear the voice of the earth, of our bodies, and of the heart, and to take reverent and practical steps to restore the balance of the world.

We are wise and loving stewards of the goods we receive, cherishing the past and preparing for the future without illusions about either, but placing our trust in God's covenant faithfulness, the truth of the Gospel, and the resilience of creation.

### LITURGIAL NOTES

## Christians in the Holy Land

You may have noticed that the Prayers of the People on Sunday regularly include a prayer for the Christians in the Holy Land, and you may have wondered why? Why single out Christians from all the people in that troubled region of the world? Why pray for them, and not the Christians of Iraq, Iran, China, and other places where the church faces official disfavor and suppression, or even violent persecution? The simple answer is that we have received a personal request from Christian leaders in Israel and the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories for our prayers. Our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Barry Beisner has, for several years now, served as a representative to those leaders on behalf of the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. When he asks them what we can do to help them maintain their presence in a land where they are caught between militant forms of Judaism and Islam, and from which the majority of the ancient Christian population has already fled, their consistent answer is that we can pray for them. Bishop Beisner has passed that request along to the clergy and people of our Diocese, and we are grateful that we can respond in this small way to their expressed need.

Of course, our scripted Prayers of the People each week are intended to be only examples, and prompts for "the people" to add petitions and thanksgivings in their own words. So if you feel that prayers also need to be offered for Palestinian Muslims or Israeli Jews, or for Christians undergoing persecution in other parts of the world, please feel free.

### STEWARDSHIP SEASON

## Abiding and Bearing Fruit

Sunday, November 2 marks Ingathering Sunday for this year's Stewardship campaign. Thank you to everyone who has already shared their commitments of time, talent and treasure for the coming year — and to those who have also submitted their Mission Pledge in our stewardship offering, sharing the gifts that they are committing outside of St. John's. Thank you in advance to all others still contemplating their commitments, and will be adding their pledge in the next several days. **Our goal for the fall stewardship campaign is for 100% participation.** Within the next several weeks, we will provide information on how close we are to achieving our hope of hearing from all members of our St. John's family. God bless each of you for all that you do to make possible St John's mission in this world. — **Kevin Jones**, Stewardship Chair



## WISDOM of the Ancients

From the November 1904 edition of *The Instructor*, the monthly newsletter of St. John's, Petaluma, along with an advertisement for "Zon-O-Phone, the new TALKING MACHINE."

You are to consider that these people are not entirely in error. They have very much of truth with them, and hence are in substantial agreement with you upon more points than you might at first suppose. Seek for those points of agreement when you are thrown in contact with them. Upon very rare occasions is it proper to engage in discussion. If any one ask you why you believe as you do, be ready with an intelligent answer, and kindly and clearly explain the matter, but be careful never to depart from a true christian courtesy in discussing points of difference. It is safest to assume that your opponent is sincere in the views he holds, but if he gives you opportunity to show him truer views, embrace the opportunity. Aim to have people love the truth for the truth's sake, and for their comfort, not simply to add one more to the number who think precisely as you do.

## AN INVITATION TO LEAD AND SERVE

### Have You Considered Joining St. John's Vestry?



Come get to know your current Vestry. They would like to take this opportunity to share their experience and passion as members of the St. John's Petaluma Vestry.

Please join us for a Sunday gathering, on **December 14th, at 11:45 a.m.** in the Church Library. We'll share stories, answer questions and perhaps inspire you to see yourself as a Church leader!

Everyone is welcome! For further information please contact: Vestry member, **Kathryn Hardt Dayton** at -925-325-6595.

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM UPDATE

### Turning Toward 2015, Reaching Out

We are once again (after many years) running an ad in the Sunday Press Democrat in addition to the local Argus Courier. **Marsha Trent** is in the process of putting together a binder with our outreach targets listed. Social media outreach opportunities are being explored, and at our next meeting on November 13 we will begin our draft of the 2015 calendar. We are also on the final leg of the journey with our new St. John's website. It will certainly enhance our public presentation. If you have a passion for St. John's and an interest in communications work, please consider joining the committee next year? — **Frances Frazier**

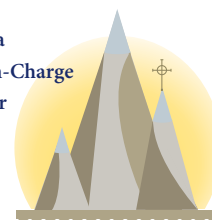
## FROM THE DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

### Meeting with Bishop Beisner this Week

The discernment process for calling a Priest-in-Charge as rector at St. John's in 2015 continues in November. On Monday, November 3, members of the Vestry and the Discernment Committee will meet with Bishop **Barry Beisner** and our Diocese's Canon to the Ordinary, **Andrea McMillin**, to report on our experience, explain our recommendation and review a Letter of Agreement for a Rector at St. John's. We have been deeply grateful to you, the parishioners of St. John's, for your support, prayers and love during this exciting time in our community. — **Victoria Temple**

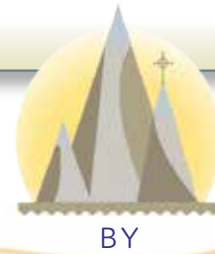
### Discernment Process 2014

Calling a  
Priest-in-Charge  
as Rector



**ST. JOHN'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
PETALUMA

Bringing Christ to Life



# NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 2014

BY

ALISON ADAMS

## Godly Play Is Spoken Here!

Our stories for October were *Creation, The Flood, and Ten Best Ways*, but the big event, was our Michaelmas Pageant! Thank you to director **Larry Temple** for teaching us about the Archangel Michael, for letting us create a meteor shower and for giving us a beautiful Red Dragon to battle!

Tales of the Saints will continue. In November, the children will hear the story of St. Martin and in December the story of St. Christopher.

Father Daniel has invited the children to participate in the Stewardship Ingathering on November 2. They will hear the story of *The Good Shepherd and World Communion* and will dedicate their own special work to God. Our next Godly Play story shall be the story of *The Ark and the Tent*, and then on November 30, we begin the stories of the Advent season. Also on Sunday evening, November 30, we'll host our third annual Advent Soup Supper.



During Church School, in the Advent season, the children will be learning a song to be sung at the 5:00 pm Christmas Eve service. The song is called "The Friendly Beasts" and, if you are curious, you can hear a version of it on YouTube!

The children have created a scarecrow to celebrate the autumn harvest season.

## A BLESSING FOR OUR MEALS

*God we thank you for this food, for rest and home and all things good, for wind and rain, and sun above, but most of all, for those we love. Amen*

*Oh come, oh come Emmanuel!*

## Advent Potluck Soup Supper

SUNDAY, NOV. 30 at 5:30 PM

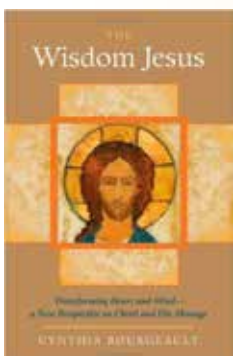
Make an Advent Wreath!  
Special guest for the children!



### WHAT TO BRING

- A pot of soup or bread and butter, or a finger food dessert (plus a beverage of your choice).
- Your own wreath frame, or purchase one at the dinner. Wreath frame and candles are \$10.00 and just candles are \$5.00.
- Garden clippers
- **Bring friends, family, and children!** This is a multi-generational event and perfect way to begin the Advent season.

We will need lots of holly, cedar, redwood, bay laurel and pine boughs to make our wreaths. If you have access to any, could bring them to church the morning of December 1? If you cannot bring them I would be happy to come and collect. Thank you! Contact Alison Adams at 559-5044 or [alison\\_adams@comcast.net](mailto:alison_adams@comcast.net).



### ADVENT BOOK STUDY

## The Wisdom Jesus

by Cynthia Bourgeault

Our year-long study, *Who is Jesus?*, concludes with a compelling and provocative contemporary vision of Jesus as a master of the transformation of consciousness.

Our text will be *The Wisdom Jesus*, by Cynthia Bourgeault, an Episcopal priest, teacher, and retreat leader. The class will meet on **three Sundays, November 30, and December 7 and 21.**

To register, contact the parish office at 762-8872 or email [office.sjecp@gmail.com](mailto:office.sjecp@gmail.com) and let us know if you'd like us to purchase a copy of the book for you.

## Rehearsals Begin in November

Advent starts early for the St. John's Community Players, who go into rehearsal beginning on Friday, November 14 for their annual performance of The Shepherds' Play. The play is growing, as parts are being written that add children's roles to the story.

The play will be performed on Saturday, December 20. Mark your calendar and share the news with family and friends.



## Petaluma Children's Chorus



## WINTER CONCERTS

ST. JOHN'S U | SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22

## ARCHETYPAL GEOMETRY

Cultivating a Participatory Consciousness with **Jeremy Strawn**

Jeremy Strawn is offering a provocative Saturday morning workshop on Archetypal Geometry: Cultivating a Participatory Consciousness.

We will examine our modern scientific world view assumptions about the nature of space, time and the forces that work within them, and how these assumptions shape the world we live and act in. In re-imagining and even dismantling some of our fundamental thought structures, we hope to move beyond limited ways of thinking and viewing our universe.

**DECEMBER 13:** Singing with **Linda Manuilow** from 2:00 - 5:00 pm. Starting with voice opening practice, Linda will skillfully lead us through musical voice exploration, with the second half of our afternoon lifting our spirits with sing along music to piano accompaniment, just right for the season.

**ST. JOHN'S U**

*Bringing Christ to Life*

**FALL 2015**



Monday, December 8 at 6:30 pm

**Petaluma Children's Chorus Winter Concert**

Come Celebrate the end of our Fall Semester! Admission \$10



Saturday, December 20 at 7:00 pm

**A Children's Christmas Concert** to open

The Shepherds' Play at St. John's Episcopal

Auditions for Intermediate and Advanced Chorus start in early January! Contact Sadie Sonntag for an appointment at [sadiesonntag@gmail.com](mailto:sadiesonntag@gmail.com) 707-794-9720



**ST. JOHN'S IS** still seeking a loving, experienced person to provide care for infants and toddlers in our nursery during Sunday morning worship.

**Working hours are 9:30 to 11:30 each Sunday.** If you have any ideas prospective applicants, please contact **Father Daniel.**

## FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

## Fall Meeting to Plan the Holiday Season

St. John's Altar Guild leadership team met this week to plan our work through Advent, Christmas and into the New Year. **Rebecca Smith, Joanne Woodland** and I reviewed our calendar process for 2015, our supplies, changes to the altar set-up, the new instruction manual, and then focused on plans and dates for the coming Holiday season.

The Altar Guild as a whole will have its annual fall planning meeting in mid-November. Rebecca is scheduling that event via email now. The first draft of the new Altar Guild Manual will be available for review.

Serving on the Altar Guild is a behind-the-scenes but extremely significant role in the life of our parish — all that we are and do as a community of faith is centered in our sacramental life. The Altar Guild is organized into teams that on a twice-weekly rotation throughout the year set and care for all of the objects that make up altar. We support our priest for baptisms, weddings and funerals, and we are caretakers of the sanctuary. There's nothing more lovely than the light filtering through our stained glass windows on a late fall Saturday afternoon, when the silence is deep, and a few minutes alone can be so refreshing.



Everyone is welcome to join the Guild. We'd love to add one more two-person team to our line-up in 2015. Let one of us know if you have wondered about what we do and would like to learn more. Below are some dates for you to get on your calendar now. —

**Victoria Temple**

**CHRISTMAS WORK DAY** to clear and prepare the Church  
Saturday, December 6 from 10:00 to 2:00 pm  
in tandem with our December Building & Grounds Workday

### DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 21, beginning at 11:30 after the 10:00 am service.

Decorating the Church and Parish Hall for Christmas is a parish-wide activity that is coordinated by the Altar Guild. We are currently on the search for a **Christmas Decorations Designer** for 2014. You won't have to do it alone, just be inspired to bring beauty to the church this year!



## The Passion and Joy of J.S. Bach

with **KAYLEEN ASBO, PH.D**

Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 am  
Norm Cram Hall

Join Kayleen Asbo, Ph.D. for a five week celebration of the Johann Sebastian Bach. Arguably the most devout of all composers, Bach's music opens up windows into vast spiritual vistas, expressing the Christian story with ineffable longing and tenderness. Our class will begin with the keyboard masterpieces of the Well Tempered Clavier, and conclude with a deep look into the Passion of St. John's- the most poignant and heartfelt setting of the Gospel story ever written. Each class will feature live musical performances.

To learn more about the class, see <http://www.kayleenasbo.com/bach.html>. The five week series is \$100.00 or each individual class is available on a drop in basis for \$25.00.

And a great sign appeared in the heavens ...



# A Michaelmas Pageant

THE BATTLE IN HEAVEN



ST. GEORGE BATTLES THE DRAGON



WOMAN CLOTHED WITH THE SUN

REVELATION'S CHAPTER 12

& THE STORY OF  
ST GEORGE  
AND THE DRAGON  
presented by the  
Godly Play  
Sunday School Class  
of St. John's Episcopal  
Church  
and Friends

Sunday, October 12 | 11:30 AM  
Norm Cram Parish Hall



THE DRAGON IS SUBDUED



THE CAST & CREW >



Interfaith Sustainable  
Food Collaborative

Help the Interfaith Sustainable Food Collaborative support family farms, increase access to local, healthy food, and advocate for sustainable food policy at our

# Harvest the Bounty

Fundraising Celebration



*Honoring the continued ingenuity and dedication  
of food and faith activist*

**Deacon Josephine Borgeson**

## COME & ENJOY

- ◆ Live music
- ◆ A silent auction
- ◆ Light refreshments featuring local chefs and local ingredients

**Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**5:30 pm—7:30 pm**

The Petaluma Seed Bank

199 Petaluma Blvd. North

\$30 in advance — \$35 at the door

**Save your spot now! For reservations or more information, contact us at (707) 634-4672  
or visit our website at [www.interfaithfood.org](http://www.interfaithfood.org)**