



Being in Time

BY REVEREND DANIEL C. GREEN

On Sunday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m. our later celebration of the Holy Eucharist will be wrapping up, and my hope is that it will be an opportune time to ring our church bell and observe a few moments of silent reflection on the centenary of the armistice that ended the First World War. Our parishioner **Gail Reid** brought us this idea from Paris, where the American Episcopal Cathedral, with all the other churches in the city, will be ringing their bells together at that hour. Counting years by hundreds is an arbitrary way to mark the cyclical nature of time, but it gives us a long view that it is hard to come by in the hurried passage from one fleeting day to the next. A century later it may seem, from the foreshortened perspective within which we habitually live, like so much time has passed as to make the passions, sorrows, and vows of November 1918 incomprehensible to us. And yet we are trained, by our regular reading of the scriptures and especially by our remembrance of the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, to imagine a past and future that live in the present.

As Christians, we have a relationship to time that is infinitely elastic. On the one hand, we remember people and events that others have forgotten, and we see ourselves as participants in the same great continuing story in which they also took part. It is a story that begins with God's creation of the world

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INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING

COME TOGETHER in the spirit of gratitude and sharing as St. John's hosts the second annual **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service** on **Wednesday, November 21** at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. A potluck reception will follow in Cram Hall. Participating congregations include **B'nai Israel Jewish Center, The Islamic Center of Petaluma, Elim Lutheran Church, Petaluma United Methodist Church,** and **Unitarian Universalists of Petaluma.** Begin your Thanksgiving holiday with prayer, reflection and song that honors the religious diversity of our land. If you would like to help host the potluck reception, contact **Betty Petrillo.** ■



UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

All Saints Labyrinth Walk

7:00 pm | see page 7

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

First Friday Taizé

in the Sanctuary | 7:30 pm

see page 3

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Stewardship Drive Concludes

see page 3

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Celtic Evensong

with Kayleen Asbo

5:00 PM in the Sanctuary

see page 5

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Interfaith Thanksgiving

Service | 7:00 pm

see page 1

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

Advent Soup Supper &

Wreath Making | 5:00 pm

see flyer on page 8

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4-8

Advent Prayer Retreat

see page 2

REVEREND DANIEL C. GREEN

Being in Time

continued from page 1 and humankind, and the stamp of that beginning is on all that has come since. On the other hand, we recognize in those persons and events of the past, signs of an end which is still the future, toward which our own lives and all the history of the world bend. Endings, like the end of the "war to end all wars" or the end of the life of a beloved, close a chapter, so we can look back and begin to take stock of what happened and what it meant. But endings also awaken our perception of all that is left unfinished, unspoken, and unseen, and our yearning for more, further on, that makes the pain, uncertainty, and futility of human existence worthwhile.

November brings the end of the church year, a time poised between past and future, between memory and hope. **The Feast of All Saints**, which ushers in the month, is rich with the fullness of this in-between that unites the beginning and the end. It is a remembrance of all the women and men, not just of the past, but also of the present and the future, who follow Jesus Christ on the way through and through time. It is a celebration of communion, a way of being that lights our often dark and arduous pilgrimage with the joy and determination of Jesus, and everyone who went this way to its promised end in God, or ever will. It is a time to entertain ahead of time the vision of the new creation in which the promise of the old is finally fulfilled; a vision whose glorious radiance incorporates richness of detail and hue from every human eye that ever passes through the world, catching shards of the eternal splendor. ■

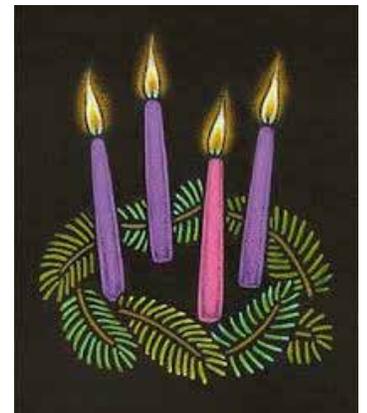
Invitation to Lead & Serve

As we prepare to begin a new church year, some members of the vestry of St. John's are preparing to complete their terms of service. **Geri Olson** and **Jerry Taylor** were elected to three-year terms at the annual parish meeting in early 2016, and **Emily Betts** was elected in 2018 to fill out the remaining year of an unexpired term. During their time on vestry they deepened their practice of spiritual leadership in the church while helping to oversee the physical and financial assets of the parish corporation, and to guide and support the ministries and mission of St. John's. *If you have not served on the vestry, or have not done so in a while*, the rector and vestry members invite you to consider prayerfully whether you may now be called to this vitally-important work. The next three years will be an important time for St. John's, as we invite, welcome, and integrate the gifts of new members, strengthen our capacity for mission, and form new partnerships in the broader community. Stay tuned for opportunities to learn more about vestry service, and don't hesitate to speak to the rector or any current member, all of whom would be delighted to share their perspectives and answer your questions about this rewarding ministry. ■



Advent Prayer Retreat

Last March, during Lent, St. John's offered for the first time a "non-residential" prayer retreat, in which we gathered each morning and evening during the week for contemplative prayer, worship, and a silent meal. The week concluded with an expanded retreat



program on Saturday. Participation ranged from those who attended all or nearly-all of the scheduled activities to those who only came for one, and by all accounts it was a nourishing experience of intimacy with one another and with the Holy Spirit. We have scheduled another such retreat for Lent of 2019, but even before then will bring the same practice to Advent. Join us **December 4 - 8** as we begin the church year, and the season of expectation and preparation for God's incarnation in Christ, in quiet, contemplation, and simplicity. The full retreat schedule will be published on our [website](#) soon. All activities on the retreat schedule are open to the public and no advance registration is required, except for meals. If you would like to eat breakfast, supper, or Saturday lunch with the retreat group, you must [sign up in advance online](#), or contact the parish office at 762-8872 or office.sjcp@gmail.com. If you would be able to help prepare a simple meal for the retreatants, [sign up here](#).



Weekly Fall Bible Study

Wednesdays, 7:00pm

at the home of Dennis and Alison Adams

11 Makena Ct., Adobe Creek

November dates: 7, 14, 28, concluding December 5

Together we will explore the coming week's readings, using suggested reflections and questions in the Serendipity Bible. Bring any version of the Bible that you have and join us for fellowship and discovery! For more information contact **Alison Adams** at Alison_adams@comcast.net or phone/text her at 415-306-1729. ■

The Taizé Experience

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 at 7:00 PM

Taizé, an ecumenical community in rural France, was formed in the turbulent times of World War II. Today, hundreds of pilgrims from all faiths make their way to Taizé each week to experience the serenity and beauty of this unique form of worship. We invite you, whatever your spiritual path in life, to join with us at St. John's in Petaluma on the first Friday of the month (except for June, July & August) for a Taizé service of song and meditation, accompanied by cello and piano. ■



Follow Us on Facebook

BY JULI LEDERHAUS

St. John's is sharing its stories on Facebook. If you are Facebook officianado here's how you can help us make the most of it.

1. "**LIKE**" St. John's Petaluma Church's Facebook page.
2. On the "**FOLLOW**" button, choose the drop down arrow and select "**SEE FIRST**" so you don't miss any posts — otherwise FB only sends you about 7% of what we post in your feed.
3. Write a **REVIEW** for St. John's on FaceBook. We only have two right now and one of them says nothing.

I know we all love our church. **Let's make sure** that new people looking for a church can see WHY we do! ■



Stewardship 2019

This Sunday, **November 4th**, we will conduct the ingathering of pledges of financial support for St. John's 2019 Annual Fund — the funds that support the day-to-day operations of our faith community. Our hope is that each of you will have submitted your pledge of time, talent and treasure by this Sunday's service, not only to reflect your commitment to the ministries of St John's, but also to help our Treasurer and Finance Committee develop our operating budget for 2019.

If you have already answered our prayer for your participation — **thank you**. If you are still considering your pledge for 2019, we invite you to submit your completed pledge as soon as possible.

God bless you — and thank you for each and every way you add to the life and love at St. John's. ■

Habitat for Humanity

If you missed the Petaluma Ecumenical Habitat for Humanity build day in September, there is another taking place on **Saturday, December 1st**, with members of Elim Lutheran and First Presbyterian. Construction continues at the Harris Village Project at 2863 West Steele Lane, Santa Rosa CA 95403. If you would like to participate and have not already done so, you first need to register as a volunteer at <https://www.habitat-soco.org/get-involved/volunteer/>



For more information, contact **David Irvine** at d.irvine@habitat-soco.org



WISDOM of the Ancients

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From the October, 1901 edition of *The Instructor*, the monthly newsletter of St. John's, Petaluma, along with an advertisement for Egan Bros., Inc., Dealers in Hardware, Groceries, Paint and Oil, Feed, Country Produce.

In the days of our grandmothers, Thanksgiving Day meant a great deal. It stood for family reunions, for church services to which everyone who was not too busy with pies and puddings went; and last but not least, it stood for what the pies and puddings were the sign of: comfort and prosperity in the home. It was a day all looked forward to and enjoyed. Can we say the same of it now? How many families will sit down together at the big well-loaded table this year? Has not life become too complicated, engagements too numerous, and other pleasures too engrossing for the old-fashioned family dinners? How many of us will go to church? If it isn't a football game it is something else, and the church service with

the pumpkin pie goes into a book upon obsolete customs.

Changes in old customs are of course inevitable, but we ought at least to be careful not to lose the real point of the day we keep. The proclamation calls upon us in solemn words to give thanks for the blessings of the year. The church endorses it by a special service, so we ought to feel that no Thanksgiving Day is well spent unless we remember either in public worship or private devotion to "praise God from whom all blessings flow." It is the one day in the year when the whole nation, as a nation, ought to sing the Doxology; for all our prosperity, all our success, is under His law and love. ■

NEWS FROM ST. JOHN'S CHURCH SCHOOL



NOVEMBER 2018

St. John's Church School in November

BY ELIZABETH SCHROEDER

GODLY PLAY IS SPOKEN HERE!

In November we conclude our **Godly Play** "sacred stories" with the telling of "The Temple" and "Exile and Return".



In our **Connect!** classroom we will be exploring the stories of "The 12 Sons" and "Joseph." Our older children are getting the opportunity to have meaningful discussions about the lessons from these ancient stories.

SUNDAY SCHOOL OUTREACH PROJECT:

BLESSING BAGS — LET'S DO IT AGAIN!

Blessing Bags are for us to keep in our car. When we see a homeless person we will be able to hand them something useful out the car window! We will be collecting content for the bags in the Godly Play classroom. **Everyone** at St. John's is welcome to contribute!

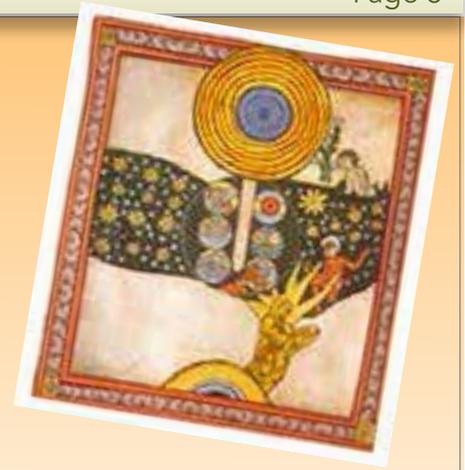


The children will sort and assemble the bags and just before Thanksgiving we will have them ready for parishioners to take and keep in their car — ready to hand out when the need arises. Things to bring in include: waters, wet ones, socks, a healthy snack (the softer the better), travel size toothpaste and toothbrush, hotel shampoos and lotions — anything small that you think would be welcome. Come and join us in this ministry! ■

Funny Church Bulletin Bloopers to Make you Smile!

1. Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.
2. Mrs. Collins is at home recovering from surgery. She is still having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.
3. Applications are now being accepted for 2 year-old nursery workers.
4. Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.
5. The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belzer, the son of Reverend and Mrs. Julius Belzer.
6. The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
7. Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30p.m. Please use the back door.
8. Don't let worry kill you off – let the church help.
9. Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again" giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
10. Let us join David and Lisa in the celebration of their wedding and bring their happiness to a conclusion.
11. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
12. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
13. The cost for attending the National PRAYER & FASTING Conference includes meals.
14. The Anger Management meeting this Friday is cancelled due to a conflict.
15. The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.

Laughingly submitted by **Betty Petrillo**



Celtic Evensong November 11, 2018 at 5:00 pm

Join us for Candlelit music, meditation and poetry to feed your soul, featuring the **Catherine Braslavsky Ensemble** offering Medieval Music from Jewish, Arabic and Christian traditions. The program will include poetry by **Doug Van Koss, David Whyte** and **Rumi**. Everyone welcome. \$10 donation requested to support the musicians.

THE BELOVED DISCIPLE

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The **MISSION** of St. John's Episcopal Church is to
Bring Christ to Life:

Celebrating the mysteries;

Honoring the beauty and wisdom of every person;

Healing the soul;

Serving the peace and renewal of the Earth.

St. John's Episcopal Church
40 5th Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 707-762-8872

Celebrations of Life

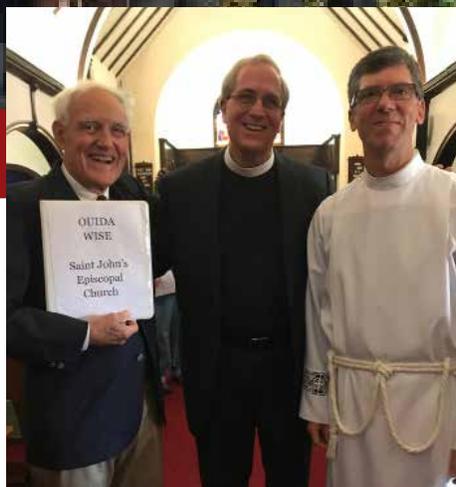


From the left, **Jamie Young, Gail Reid, Bill Reid** and **Connie Young**, share photos of their Fall visit to the Reid's home in the Var provence of Southern France.



A Farewell to Ouida Wise

From the left, Rev. **Norm Cram**, Rev. **David Miller** and Rev. **Daniel Green**, celebrated the life of Ouida Wise.



On October 21, the family and friends of long-time St. John's parishioner, **Ouida Wise**, who trained a whole new cadre of Altar Guild members shortly before Father Daniel arrived as our new Priest-in-Charge in 2008, was mourned and honored at the funeral attended by the three Priests she served during her time at St. John's.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

Advent

Potluck Soup Supper & Wreath Making

Saturday, December 1
5:00 pm in Cram Hall



*PLEASE join us for
our fifth annual
Advent wreath
making evening!*

Bring either a pot of soup, bread & butter or a finger food dessert to share (and a beverage of your choice).

WHAT TO BRING: We will need lots of holly, cedar, redwood, bay laurel and/or pine boughs to make our wreaths. If you have access to any and could bring them to church the morning of December 1, it would be wonderful! Or they could be picked up. Please contact **Alison Adams** at 559-5044 or email her at alison_adams@comcast.net.

This is a multi-generational event and a perfect way to begin the Advent season.
Bring friends, family and children!

Bring your own wreath frame or we will provide the wreath frames and candles for **\$12**, but you will need to bring some garden clippers and a bit of wire.

After our potluck dinner we will make our family Advent wreaths, dim the lights, light our first candle together.

ST. JOHN'S



EPISCOPAL CHURCH PETALUMA

350 Sixth Street, Petaluma, CA 94952 707-762-8872 www.saintjohnsepiscopalpetaluma.org