

St. John's The Evangelist

The monthly newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. Vernon

December, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past Sunday was November 26th, the weekend after the Thanksgiving holiday. I had taken it upon myself to drag down the old Chrismon tree from the nursery closet. A discussion ensued during coffee hour whether to construct the old tree for another year or buy a new tree. The old tree had been donated to the church by Ken and Nancy Mackey. This will be my thirteenth Advent and Christmas Season at St. John's and it is my understanding that the tree had been around a few years before my arrival. As with any store-bought artificial Christmas tree, some assembly is required. However, with the current, older tree, a lot of assembly is required. Each individual branch has to be meticulously attached to the center pole/trunk. So, I was asked if it would be okay for a new tree to be purchased. Since there was a desperate plea in the sound of the voices asking for the new tree, I said "Yes." By late afternoon on that Sunday a new tree was erected in the parish hall waiting to be decorated.

Until I arrived at St. John's I had never heard of a Chrismon tree. Each year that the tree is displayed, there are framed descriptions of the Chrismon tree. Unlike most home Christmas trees that are a mix of Christian symbols and secular decorations (ornaments); a Chrismon tree contains specific symbols of Christ. Here is part of the descriptions of the Chrismon tree, itself: *"The name Chrismon is formed from CHRIST + MONOGRAM. These symbols proclaim the name, the life, and the saving acts of Jesus the Christ. Some Chrismons are simple copies of symbols of Christianity from its earliest days; others are new explanations of God's never-changing presence in our ever-changing world; and some are combinations of several elements, old and new."* I would even add that some symbols began as part of various pagan religions, but have been converted to have a Christian meaning.

Here are some of the typical symbols that can be found on a Chrismon tree:

The Evergreen Tree: Eternal Life

Lights: Jesus is the Light of the World

The Color "White": Christ in his radiant glory, as in the Transfiguration and the Resurrection.

The Color "Gold": Glory and majesty of God and his son, Jesus Christ

Cross and Chi of Roses: Prophecy of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem

IHS: Greek letters associated with the name of Jesus Christ

XP: These Greek letters together form a cross symbol and thus, Jesus as redeemer

X in a Circle: Eternity

Crown: Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords

Greek Cross: Jesus' death on the cross

Alpha and Omega: Jesus is eternal, the beginning and the end, yet not constrained by human time

Butterfly: Jesus' resurrection from the dead

Orb with Cross: Jesus is Lord over all the earth

White Dove: The Holy Spirit

Seashell: Christian Baptism

Fish: Code symbol for the early Christian Church

Chalice: The shedding of Jesus Christ's blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins

Loaf of Bread: Christ crucified, his body broken to make us whole

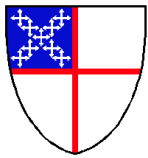
Angel: God's heavenly messenger and the first to bring the Good News to the shepherds

During this year's Advent and Christmas Seasons, I encourage us to take a moment to not see the Chrismon tree as a whole, or just another "Christmas tree", but take the time to actually see the various symbols and ponder their meaning of the saving grace of God in Christ in our life today.

Your Brother in Christ,

Allen +

Serving Christ In The Community For Over 160 Years



St. John's Episcopal Church, Mount Vernon, Indiana

A member of The Southwest Deanery of The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis; The Episcopal Church in the United States; and the Worldwide Anglican Communion

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, Bishop
The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford, Rector
Mr. Bruce Dingman, Senior Warden
Mr. Barry Cox, Junior Warden
Mrs. Alex Jeffries, Vestry Clerk
Ms. Susan Harrison, Treasurer

Church Address:

602 Mulberry Street
P.O. Box 503
Mt. Vernon, Indiana 47620
(812) 838-5445
(812) 838-4881
mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net

Church Secretary Office Hours:

Monday-Friday
Robin Price, 8:00a.m. to Noon
For pastoral emergencies, please call:
The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford, Rector
Cell Phone: 812-430-2443
Home: 812-838-4406
E-mail: rutherford317@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45-9:45a.m. J2A & Rite 13
9-9:45a.m. Adult Study, Choir Rehearsal
& Sunday School Classes
(PreK-5th Grade)
10:00a.m. Holy Eucharist
Coffee & Refreshments follows the
Eucharist in the Parish Hall

**Sunday Morning Nursery Assistance
Available**

Weekday Service Schedule

Morning Prayer, Tuesday-Friday, 8:30a.m.
Women's Bible Study, Wednesday, 9:00a.m.

Mission Statement

The mission of the people of
St. John's Episcopal Church,
Mt. Vernon, Indiana is to:

**Proclaim the love of God and
the Gospel of Jesus Christ through
prayer, study, and action.**

Vision Statement

With God's help,
we commit ourselves to:

Recognize God as the author of
all creation

**Be a place of welcome and
refuge for ourselves and others**

Offer weekly worship and Eucharist

Stay grounded in God's Word
through Christian education

Pray for our needs and those
of others

**Lend a helping hand to those in any
kind of need or trouble,**
and finally to

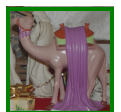
**Maintain thankful hearts for God's
many blessings**

Look us up on the web at
www.mtvstjohns.org



Also become our friend on
Facebook:

StJohns Church or
mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net





Senior Warden Encouragements

LET'S ALL SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND OPEN A DOOR FOR SOMEONE!

We are the family of St John's Episcopal Church. Each one of us has almost completed another year, 2017, planned and created by God, our Father. Think about it....The God of Creation has brought us to an end (2017) and a beginning (2018), as He wills.

Our year has been unique for each person. A myriad of thoughts, experiences, joy and laughter, sadness and tears, that have brought us to now.

All things have been orchestrated by God, Who knows each of us better than we know ourselves. He is LOVE, and we are taught how to live as He sent His Son to live with us and teach us.

For this Great Life and ultimate Sacrifice, we are entering Advent to await and celebrate The Holy birth of Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords!

To place this Advent event in perspective, all I can think of to say is "ALLELUIA! GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST AND EVERLASTING PEACE TO ALL HIS PEOPLE!"

Rejoice and live a joyous Advent! Be thankful, kind, compassionate, loving, and forgiving. Cry as you may need to do, pray for those you know, those you do not know, and yourself that you may live within the will of God for you to advance His Kingdom on earth.

I'm writing this at Barnes and Nobles Starbucks while enjoying a cup of coffee. As I walked to the door, a kind gentleman held the door for several people and myself to step inside before he was finally able to walk outside. To each person he smiled and said "MERRY CHRISTMAS". I responded the same in return and smiled. It sure has been a wonderful day....AS IT ALWAYS IS....BECAUSE IT WAS GIVEN TO ME BY GOD!

So let's all OPEN A DOOR FOR SOMEONE EACH DAY, INVITE THEM IN TO MEET JESUS, and say MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Gail Robb

Treasurer's Notes

Hard to believe that by the end of the month Robin and I will be working on the St. John's 2018 budget. Seems like we just did the 2017 one! Thinking about the budget brings me to our outreach plans for next year. This week on TV we heard many articles about "Giving Tuesday". The congregation of St. John's doesn't need to be pushed into a day of giving. Through all your work and dedication you give 365 days a year! I realize "money is money" but when I set up our budget each year, I use your pledges each year as a guide to determine our level of outreach giving. I want this church family to be assured that your hard earned money is working in the way of Jesus. Much of our outreach stays right here in Mt. Vernon but some of it goes out into the whole world. As in the words of the song "They will know we are Christians by our love". Jesus himself commanded His disciples to take care of those less fortunate and those in need. With your tithes this church family walks in the way of Jesus. Robin sent out pledge cards recently and many have been returned already. Please thoughtfully consider with your family a pledge to St. John's for 2018. If you can't find your card, we have more!! Just ask and we will get another card to you. During the annual meeting in January I will be reporting about St. John's giving in 2017 along with Susan Gooden, our outreach chairman, and the other members who take on other giving projects and fundraising efforts. Please consider participating with the outreach committee. Our meeting is usually just after the first of the year, on a Sunday, after a service. We welcome any and all suggestions for worthy projects up for consideration of St. John's participation. Thank you ALL, in advance, for your constant dedication and generosity through the works of this small but mighty church family. You guys are absolutely amazing. MANY organizations are better able to serve others because of YOU! Thanks be to a God. May we ALWAYS walk in the way of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. As we are so blessed, so we continue to find ways to bless others.

Susan Harrison

Serving Christ through...

: Education and Formation

2017 CHRISTMAS Pageant

**Sunday
December 24th**
Immediately after the
worship service

The pageant directors and children have been hard at work since early November learning lines and singing songs for this year's pageant. Thank you to Susie Colson and Jill Gerton for finding yet another different, unique and awe-inspiring pageant to help us remember the sacred birth of Jesus Christ. The pageant will be held on Sunday morning, December 24th following the Eucharist service. The first part of the service will be the celebration of the Last Sunday of Advent with Holy Communion. The Pageant will usher in the Christmas season.

**Final Dress Rehearsal
will be Friday evening,
December 22nd
3:30-6:30.**



**GREENING OF THE
CHURCH
SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 23RD
8:30AM**



CHRISTMAS BREAK

All Sunday school classes will not meet on December 24th and 31st.

All the children and teen classes will meet on Sunday, December 24th for last minute pageant preparations at 9:00a.m.

**ALL CLASSES WILL RESUME
ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 7TH.**

Journey in Faith Adult Inquirer's Class Dec. 6th, 6:00PM

The *Journey in Faith* group will hold its study on Wednesday evening, December 6th beginning at 6:00p.m. with a light supper. This month's topic will be "Ministration to the Sick and Dying"

Journey in Faith is open to anyone who wants to know more about the Bible, Church traditions, and their faith. Seekers and seasoned scholars are both welcome! A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the parish hall.



Serving Christ through...: Reaching Out To Others

December Outreach Recipients:

Family Matters will receive \$1,000 to provide emergency assistance to people in our community. Another \$500 will go to the Christian Church Daycare Center. \$500 is designated for Posey County Young Life. Posey County Humane Society will receive \$425.

We also set aside money from the outreach budget to pay the processing cost of each Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child shoebox. The cost of each box was \$9. We filled 38 boxes for a total of \$342.00 in processing costs.

DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY Baking Items



The Food Pantry needs baking items: such as cake mixes, flour, sugar, etc.

Place them in the round bin in the Parish Hall.

CHRISTMAS GIFT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

We are sponsoring fifteen children from five families.

Please bring the wrapped gifts by Sunday, **December 10th** so they can be blessed.

Again this year the gifts will be taken to Trinity United Church of Christ for the families to pick up.



HELPING TRINITY U.C.C. WITH CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Volunteers are needed at Trinity Church to help organize food baskets, Christmas presents and in the distribution of presents to families who come to Trinity to pick them up.

Tuesday, December 12th

This first evening is when the food baskets will be assembled beginning at 6:00p.m. Approximately 155 boxes of various food items to make a holiday meal will be assembled.

Wednesday, December 13th

The second evening is the "Wrap Up Party" beginning at 5:00p.m. Some of the last minute presents dropped off by local businesses and organizations will need to be wrapped. Also, on this evening the presents that are wrapped and marked are bundled or bagged together and organized so that it is fast and easy to retrieve them when the families come to pick them up.

Thursday, December 14th

On Thursday and Friday, December 14th and 15th volunteers are needed to help retrieve the packages and distribute them to the families when they show up at Trinity. On Thursday (15th) the pick up time is from 3:00 to 7:00P.M.

Friday, December 15th

On Friday the pick up time is from 9:00A.M. to 11:00 A.M.

Either contact Father Allen to volunteer or get more information, or just show up at Trinity U.C.C. on the corner of 5th and Mulberry Street to help on these days.



Reaching Out To Others



Thank You to everyone who donated items for the Christmas On The River ministry. Also, a big thank you to everyone who took the time to create Christmas Cards. 35 Cards were made.

Crafting Christmas Cards



Serving Christ through... Our Church and Community

HEART-FELT THANK YOUs

Fall Rummage Sale

Thank You to everyone who donated items for the Rummage Sale held on Saturday, November 5th. Thank you to everyone who helped set up and who worked on the day of the sale. The total amount of the sale was \$233.00.

ROLLING OUT OF THE BUCKETS

Thank You to everyone who brought your cash and coins for the EFHN Buckets with the changing of the clocks

\$225.00 was the total amount collected!!!



Thank you to the Bell Family for creating a new chain to hang our Christmas Assistance Tags. It's beautiful!

Thank you to all who have taken tags and purchased gifts for children in the community who need a little extra love this season!



2018 PLEDGE CARDS

Please turn in completed pledge cards as quickly as possible. If you have misplaced your pledge card, please call or stop by the church office to get another one; 812-838-5445. Our Goal each year is to have all completed pledge cards turned in by the last week of December, so next year's budget will closely reflect our potential pledge giving.

NEW 2018 VESTRY MEMBERS NEEDED

It is time to start thinking about Vestry replacements. The three people going off of the vestry are Barry Cox, Alex Jeffries and Dana Taylor. It is their responsibility to find members to be nominated to fill their positions. If you feel called to serve on the Vestry, please talk to one of them.

HOLIDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

**December 24th
Christmas Eve
Sunday Morning**

Holy Eucharist with Christmas Pageant
10:00 a.m.

**December 24th
Christmas Eve
Night Service**

A service of Lessons and Carols with
Holy Communion 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day—Monday
Holy Eucharist *9:00 a.m.

(* Please note the earlier start time for this service!)

New Year's Eve – Sunday
First Sunday After Christmas
Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

**THERE WILL BE NO SERVICE ON
NEW YEAR'S DAY!!**

Our Church and Community

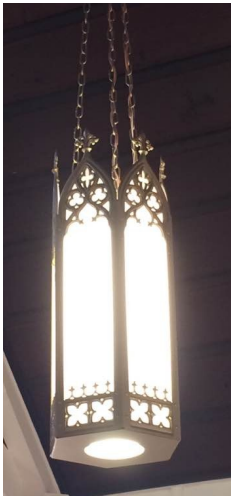
Serving Christ through...



Old lighting from photo taken in 2013



New lighting from photo taken Sunday, 11-20-17



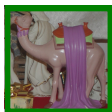
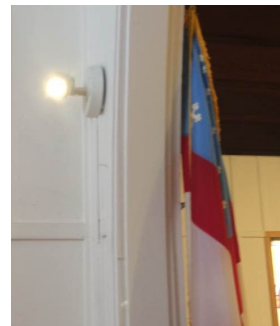
New Pendant light



New wall sconce



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CELEBRATION OF THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST TO THE COMING MAGI

THREE KINGS PARTY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7th

- Processing the Wise Men to the Creche
- Three Kings Bread
- Goodies placed in children's empty shoes
- A piñata for the children to break



Our Church and Beyond

Thank You

to everyone who took empty shoeboxes and brought them back filled.

YOU filled 38 Boxes!!



WHERE'S WALLY THE WAYWARD CAMEL?

You have probably heard about and seen the "Elf on the Shelf". One of Santa's elves that is photographed as he moves from place to place in a house. We don't have an elf, but we have Wally the Wayward Camel. Wally showed up about two years ago just in time for Epiphany to be escorted by the children to the crèche. Wally is a wayward camel, because he is constantly getting lost and side tracked. However, he always seems to find his way to the crèche every year. We have it on good authority that Wally will begin his journey to the crèche beginning in Advent, and like the Elf on the Shelf, Wally may be spotted in a few odd places in St. John's (and in this newsletter). Keep an eye on St. John's Facebook Page and our church website to follow Wally's journey and see where he might show up each day.



Events & Celebrations

Serving Christ through...

December 2017						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December Dates to Remember

- 03 — First Sunday of Advent, St. Nicholas visitation to St. John's
- 04 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry volunteer day
- 06 — Food Pantry delivery to Cloverleaf
- 06 — *Journey in Faith*, Parish Hall 6:00 p.m.
- 10 — Christmas Present Ingathering
- 17 — Third Sunday of Advent, *Rose Sunday*
- 18 — St. John's, River Bend Food Pantry volunteer day
- 21 — Vestry Meeting, 6:00 p.m. in parish hall
- 22 — Pageant Practice, 3:30-6:30p.m.
- 23 — Greening of the church, 8:30 a.m.
- 24 — [Tentative Schedule] Day of *Christmas Eve*,
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist for Fourth Sunday of Advent. Christmas Pageant.
10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve *Lessons and Carols* with Holy Eucharist
- 25 — *Christmas Day*, 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist service (church office closed)
- 31 — First Sunday after Christmas (Day of *New Year's Eve*) 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

January 1 — New Years Day, **Feast of the Holy Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**, 10:00 a.m. Service.

January 7 — Epiphany Sunday, Children process Magi to the Creche during Holy Eucharist, Three Kings Party during coffee hour.

December Birthdays:

- 08 — Jeff Robb
- 10 — Diane Stover
- 10 — Tammy Weatherford
- 17 — Patrick Gerton
- 19 — Judy Maurer
- 25 — Wayne Harlow



December Anniversaries:

(None that we know about??)

If we missed your day or listed it incorrectly let us know so we can update our files.

Christmas Sugar Cookie Pie

Ingredients

- 1 pouch (1 lb 1.5 oz) sugar cookie mix
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup red, green and white candy sprinkles
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla
- 3 to 4 teaspoons milk
- Assorted holiday candies



Directions

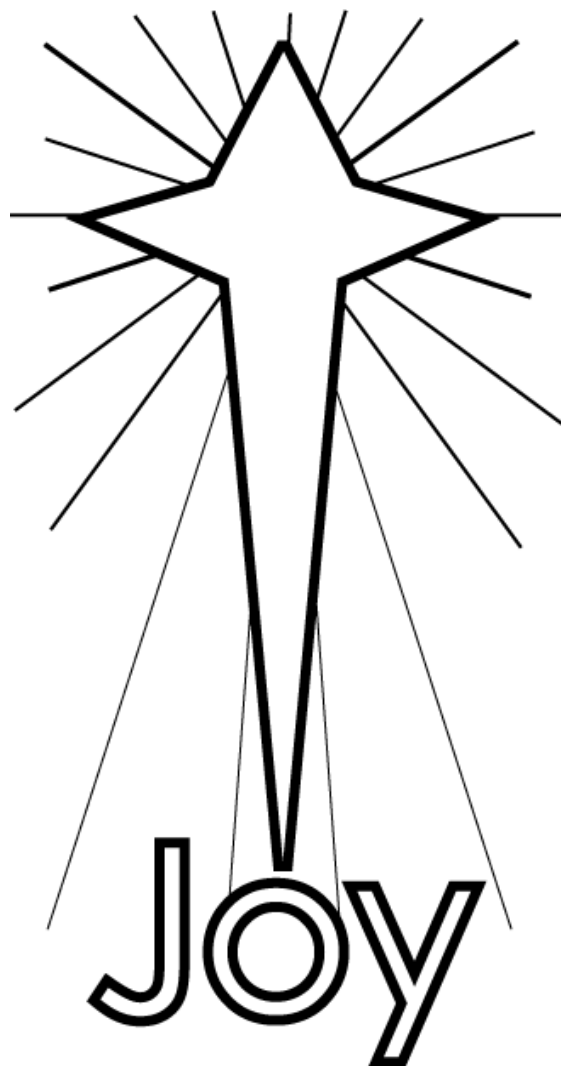
- Heat oven to 325°F. Spray bottom only of 9-inch pie plate with cooking spray.
- In large bowl, mix cookie mix, 1/2 cup softened butter and egg with spoon until soft dough forms. Stir in candy sprinkles. Press dough in bottom of pie plate.
- Bake 33 to 38 minutes or until center is set and edges are golden brown. If needed, cover edges of cookie with foil to keep from overbrowning. Cool completely, about 1 1/2 hours.
- In medium bowl, beat powdered sugar, 3 tablespoons softened butter, the vanilla and 3 teaspoons of the milk with electric mixer on low speed until smooth and creamy. If necessary, add additional milk to make frosting easy to spread.
- Spread frosting over cookie pie. Decorate top of frosted cookie as desired with assorted holiday candies. To serve, cut into wedges.

Serving Christ through...: Connecting Kids To God



Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;
he is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11

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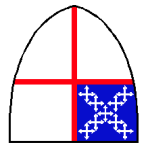


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**What would
YOU do
as Queen (or King)
for a day?**



St. John's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 503
602 Mulberry Street
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620



Yard Work Day

Thank You to everyone who helped rake leaves, clean up the flower beds, trim bushes, and pick up tree limbs and twigs.

