

St. John's The Evangelist

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

January, 2017

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

During my art school days, I learned many drawing and painting techniques. One such technique involved selecting a subject matter that had a predominant color, then finding a matching colored paper as a base on which to paint the subject. The subject also had to have a strong light source that pulled the subject out of a dark background. The combination of the bright color of the subject with the strong interaction between the light and dark created a dramatic visual effect. I found a photo of a little girl in a colorful turquoise coat and a bag of bird seed in her hands surrounded by birds. I chose a matching blue paper and used light and dark paint colors to pull the image of the little girl out of the paper.

It was not until a number of years later that I discovered that this technique was very old and had a name: *Chiaroscuro*. "Chiaroscuro [meaning, 'light-dark'] is a painting technique, developed during the Renaissance, that uses strong tonal contrasts between light and dark to model three-dimensional forms, often to dramatic effect. The underlying principle is that solidity of form is best achieved by the light falling against it." (Wikipedia) I seldom worked with oils, but was required to render the technique in water-based gouache paint, pastels, and pen and ink. The actual word *chiaroscuro* has fallen out of use, hence the word was not taught to me when I was actually producing the technique back in art school or through much of my early professional career. However, this technique of using dramatic light to model a subject and pull it out of darkness is not only a common use in illustration, but is used in photography and in theater and movie lighting. One of the most famous painters to use this technique was Rembrandt van Rijn, but many other artists used the technique including Leonardo de Vinci.

The *Nativity* painting by Gerrit van Honthorst is just one of many paintings of the birth of Jesus Christ that have been done using the chiaroscuro technique. I am reminded of this style at this time of year as I read the nativity story from the Gospel Luke, the visitation of the Magi, and the prophecies of the Messiah's birth from the old prophets. The prologue to the Gospel of John also paints a vivid picture of chiaroscuro. "What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (1:3b-5) "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." (1:14) Jesus even claimed, "I am the Light of the world." That light was given to us at Christmas and we celebrated the coming of that Light. However, we are quickly entering the season of Epiphany, the time when we will hear stories of how that Light of Christ is revealed to the world. The Gospels tell us of those who will accept the light and will live eternally in that light, but there will be those who will reject it. They choose to stay hidden in the darkness of sin and death. We are daily bombarded with news that is full of darkness.

We must live in that darkness, but we are "in the world, not of the world." Our ministry is two fold. First, we must let the Light of Christ shine on us out of the darkness, and secondly, we must reveal that light to others so that they too can learn to walk in the light. "I want to walk as a child of the light, I want to follow Jesus."



Nativity: Gerrit van Honthorst
circa 1625, public domain

Your Brother in Christ Allen⁺



Serving Christ In The Community For over 160 Years



St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. 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. Catherine M. Waynick, Bishop
The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford, Rector
Mr. Bruce Dingman, Senior Warden
Mr. Barry Cox, Junior Warden
Mrs. Alex Jeffries, Vestry Clerk

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:

Mrs. Robin Price
Monday through Friday
8:00a.m. to Noon

For pastoral emergencies, please call:
The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford, Rector
Home: 812-838-4406
Cell Phone: 812-430-2443
E-mail: rutherford317@sbcglobal.net

Sunday Morning Schedule:

8:45-9:45a.m. J2A
9-9:45a.m. Adult Study, Choir Rehearsal,
& PreK-4th Grade Sunday School Class
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.

Wednesday Morning Schedule:

9:00-10:00a.m. Women's Bible Study

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.mvstjohns.org**



**Also become our friend
on Facebook:
StJohns Church**

**or
mtvstjohns@sbcglobal.net**

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

As was reported in the December 2016 parish newsletter, we will be electing two new vestry members in 2017. If you have not served on vestry recently, please consider volunteering now! St. John's needs you. It is a good way to be involved with parish activities, and is one way to serve Christ. Please see Bruce Dingman or Lydia Rutherford, for further information or if you want to serve.

ADA Compliance

There has been a long-held desire to make St. John's "handicap accessible." The proper term is ADA Compliant (Americans with Disabilities Act). A multitude of reasons and excuses have been used over the years to avoid the responsibility to make this holy place available and welcoming to everyone. The question that was never addressed was, "what actually does need to be done and what will the actual cost be to make the parish fully ADA Compliant?" Back in February, the Vestry finally resolved to answer that question. More specifically, Junior Warden, Barry Cox made the contacts to arrange for an architect and various contractors to give us the specifics. A congregational meeting was held in May to present an initial architectural plan. Suggestions were made and questions were answered, but the missing piece was still "what's the cost?" We are close to having the final plans ready to present with costs. Either at the parish annual meeting, or at a separate congregational meeting those plans and costs will be presented. Then the congregation and the Vestry will need to make a decision on how to proceed.



2017 Parish Annual Meeting Sunday, January 29th

The meeting follows the worship service. A sign-up sheet is posted in the parish hall for attendance and food: The meat is provided. All parishioners are encouraged to attend.

All Vestry Wardens and Ministry Leaders are required to submit a brief written report prior to the annual meeting. All reports are due by the end of the day, Thursday, January 26th, so all reports can be collated and copied for the meeting. Please e-mail or provide hard copies to Robin Price at the church.

TREASURER'S NOTES

I just wanted to put into the newsletter this month a giant THANK YOU!!! to this small but mighty church family. It's hard to believe another year has gone by. You guys have come through on just about every project in 2016 with record numbers. Rest assured the St. John's parish not only "talks the talk" but also "walks the walk" as Jesus commanded us to serve others through His Church. Our blessings this year have been HUGE! Thanks be to God!

Fr. Allen & Robin & I brought out the "cards of shame" this week for those of our regular pledging members to QUIT procrastinating and get those pledge cards filled out and turned in. It worked!! We got several more cards on Wednesday during the Women's Bible study group Christmas brunch. The pledge numbers for the 2017 budget are looking much better! I was really concerned about our income numbers but NOW they are much improved. As Robin reminded me: "Ye of little Faith", I should have known you guys would come through when called upon!

Please be sure to put Sun. Jan 29th on your calendar. This is our annual parish meeting & pitch-in. I will be presenting the 2017 operating budget for your approval and showing you the final numbers from 2016. Thanks again, everyone. And may all your families have a blessed 2017!

Susan Harrison, Treasurer

SIDE NOTE: The "Card of Shame" as pictured below is merely a Pledge Card on bright orange paper, so not to be easily overlooked. These are in no way made public and only to remind the procrastinators of St. John's of something important that they need to do.

St. John's Episcopal Church 2017 Pledge Card

I (We) pledge to contribute in 2017: \$ _____ Annually

Name _____

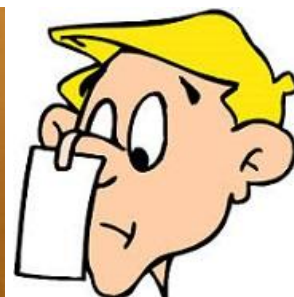
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date _____

Signature _____

Our Parish uses it's budget for the year on these pledges. Please return your pledges promptly!

Is provision for planned giving to St. John's a part of your Estate planning? (please circle) Yes ☐ No ☐



To the Congregation of St. John's From the Rector and Vestry

During this past year, and at various times in previous years, there has been discussions in Vestry meetings about the lighting in the sanctuary.

What is being discussed and proposed **IS NOT** *change for the sake of change*. There are legitimate reasons for considering new lighting.

Here are a few reasons for considering updating and improving the lighting in the sanctuary.

- The overall lighting in the sanctuary is dim. This is especially acute during Sunday services when it is very cloudy, and also during evening services.
- There are actual dead spots in the church where only natural light is available. This is true not only in all four corners of the church, but actually occurs near the front-center of the sanctuary near the choir and layreader pews and in the back-center.
- A church sanctuary that is perceived to be poorly lit is *unwelcoming* to visitors. We are not proposing to over light the space, but improve the quality of the lighting.
- The current lighting is a patchwork of different light fixtures from different time periods. There is traditional church light fixtures mixed with industrial-type light fixtures. (*Lighting you have in your garage should not be in a church.*)
- All of these various lights are controlled by numerous and different light switches. It is extremely difficult with the current lighting to find a balance of "enough light" when special services recommend "dimmed lighting" during the service.
- Some of the current lighting and wiring is dated. We are not talking about dated in the sense of "out of style", but dated in the sense that the current wiring and fixtures are nearing the point where they will not sufficiently handle current and future light bulbs.

All of the current lights in the church would be *thoughtfully* replaced and rewired with centralized switch controls. The main fixtures that need the most thought and care is the four center light fixtures and the wall sconces. The two sheets of light fixture photos represent two opinions. Some would like to see more contemporary light fixtures, but tasteful in design; while others would like to consider more traditional, "churchy-looking" light fixtures.

We value your thoughts and opinions. It's not necessarily a matter of should we change the lighting, but when and how soon will we change and improve the lighting. Let us know which of the lighting styles you feel best represents St. John's Episcopal Church.

Also, the other industrial-style spot and flood lights will be replaced with carefully planned track-style lighting with better placement to illuminate the current dim areas.

Sincerely, Father Allen, Wardens, and Vestry



Education and Formation

Worship Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 18th,
6:00PM



THREE KINGS PARTY



SUNDAY, JANUARY 8TH

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

THANK YOU

A "bazillion" thanks to our children, their parents, teachers, directors, artists and musicians for another outstanding Christmas Pageant. This pageant was pretty complex with its retro theme, clever dialogue and kicky music, but the results were superb! A lot of hard work, a lot of memorization, a lot of creativity, a lot of practice, a ton of script and an unending supply of "little black notes" all added up to a wonderful retelling of the Christmas Story, all to the glory of God—and I'm sure He loved it!

Thanks, everyone and God's blessings!

Diane Stover

Journey in Faith

Wednesday,
January 11th

Common Riding Festivals of the Scottish Borders



The evening starts with a soup supper at 6:00pm. Even in their ruins, these are beautiful structures. Come and see the photos and join the discussion.

Christian Education Meeting February 5th

Following the morning service

All Sunday School and Youth Group Leaders

Topics for discussion:

- Lent
- Planning for the end our Sunday school year on May 21st
- Thoughts on 2017-2018 Sunday School year
- 2017 VBS
- Youth Group update



Serving Christ through...

Arrest These Merry Gentlemen



"The Big Fig Rig"



Reaching Out To Others

The Outreach Committee will be meeting on Sunday, January 15th to discuss our annual tithe budget and recipients for 2017.



If you would like to know how and where the money will be spent, please attend the meeting.

FOOD DELIVERY MINISTRY

In January, St. John's Episcopal Church will partner with the River Bend Food Pantry to begin an elderly food ministry. The food pantry will provide food while St. John's will provide the delivery service. According to Kimberly Conlin, food pantry director, the ministry will begin in the third week of January with training for interested St. John's members sometime in the first two weeks of January. Currently, six members of the congregation have volunteered: Gracie Bell, Beth Dingman, Susan Gooden, Karen Lawson, Gail Robb, and Sue Webster.

The ministry is to the elderly at Cloverleaf who have little access to the food pantry because of various difficulties. Volunteers from St. John's will pick up food boxes filled by the food pantry and take them to Cloverleaf. Volunteers will then deliver the boxes to the apartments of those who have shown interest in the program. Teams of two will deliver boxes once a month.

Last January, the Outreach Committee decided to begin an elderly ministry and an opportunity to do so was provided by the food pantry. Committee members and Kimberly Conlin have met during the past year to discuss and plan the program.

If you would like to volunteer for the ministry, a sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall or you may contact Father Allen or Susan Gooden.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Gooden
Outreach Committee Chair

HOW MANY WERE HELPED BY THE RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND?

Between January to December 2016—188 families were helped through the Rector's Discretionary Fund. \$16,198.47 was the total amount spent helping those families.

JANUARY FOOD PANTRY Jelly

The Food Pantry needs assorted varieties of jelly, any brand. Place them in the round bin in the Parish Hall.



2017 RELAY FOR LIFE



Over the course of the last two years, St. John's has scaled back its participation in the Mt. Vernon Relay For Life effort. The decision was made in 2015 to not have a booth-tent at the Event. That decision was upheld last year as well. However, we continued to hold the pork chop lunch fundraiser in April. We were informed earlier this fall that Darrin Seitz is no longer smoking meat for charities. So, one issue the Outreach Committee and Relay planners will have to decide is what effort do we want to put into the 2017 Relay For Life program. Do we want to (or can we) find a replacement for Darrin and continue a pork chop lunch fundraiser? Do we want to consider some other form of fundraiser to stay involved and supportive of the cause? Or, do we, as a church, want to completely stop our support of the program. If the latter choice is preferred, we would still want to support in some way, those individuals of the congregation who choose to, join other Relay teams. The Outreach Committee and the Relay planners would like to hear your suggestions.

The Mt. Vernon Relay For Life effort is undergoing a significant change this year. The details are not absolutely known at this point, but the event date has been moved away from early June to Saturday, May 13th. Instead of being held at the High School track, the event will be held at the river front. The timing of the event will be Noon to Midnight.

Serving Christ through... Our Church & Community

“I’m Back!”

“Did you miss me?”

We have two Sunday's of White for the Christmas Season (December 25th and January 1st), then a third Sunday of White for the start of Epiphany (January 8th), then we go right back into another Green Season. We'll have six Sunday's of green, then bring out the cream colored tapestries for the Last Sunday of Epiphany. I went into great detail in the June-July 2016 edition of the newsletter (found on the parish website) about the Ordinary Seasons which are observed by the color green. While Epiphany is its own Church season, it is actually the beginning of a continuation of readings or “Propers”, that pause for Lent, Holy Week and Easter, but pick up again with the Sundays After Pentecost.

It seems like only yesterday, we were changing out the green after last year's long green season, now we get to bring it back out again. Did you miss it?



After the Three Wise Men left,
the Three Wiser Women arrived.



The new parish website is a “work in progress.” We had hoped that the new site would be up and running by early December when the subscription for the current website expired. The new website is being developed by the Communications branch of our diocese. One significant change from the old website to the new is the URL, or website address. In the beginning of the original website development back in 2005 through 2007, the hope was that we could have the website address match the e-mail address: mtvstjohns.org, but that address was already taken. We got as close as we could by removing the “t” to make it mtvstjohns.org. A shell website is already up, and you can see it along with some of our photos at www.mtvstjohns.org.

Our current website is informational and still aesthetically pleasing, but lacks functionality. The new website will have more bells and whistles. The current website is complicated and only Father Allen knows all of the steps to edit it and upload it. The new website will be more user-friendly, so Beth Dingman, and others (Robin?) will be able to access it and edit it more often.

The plan was always to keep both websites running concurrently for a period of time, while all of the kinks get worked out of the new site and everyone who will have editing access feel comfortable doing so. The change in web address will mean that all of our other literature will need to be revised over a period of time, but hopefully, this will force us to intentionally and diligently promote the website. Ironically, our church stationary/letterhead has always had the original [mtvstjohns](http://mtvstjohns.org) (with the “t”) listed at the bottom and no one noticed until recently.

Events & Celebrations

2017 JANUARY						
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				

www.free-printable-calendar.com

January Dates to Remember

- 01 — *New Years' Day, Feast of the Holy Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*, 10:00 a.m. service
- 06 — Day of Epiphany
- 08 — *Epiphany Sunday*, Three Kings Party after Holy Eucharist service during coffee hour; Children Process magi to the Creche (**Adult Bible Study resumes**)
- 08 — **All Sunday School Classes Resume**
- 09 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 11 — *Journey in Faith*, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- 13 — Finance Committee Meeting, 10:30a.m., Old National Bank
- 15 — Outreach Committee meeting after service
- 16 — Martin Luther King Jr. Day observed
- 17 — Mt. Vernon Ministerial Association meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 18 — Worship Committee meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 19 — Vestry meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 23 — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer day
- 29 — Parish Annual Meeting



Thank You to "St. Nicholas" for his yearly visit to the children of St. John's.



January Birthdays:

- 01 — Breeze Sobek
- 05 — Lydia Rutherford
- 09 — Jill Gerton
- 11 — Olivia Gerton
- 17 — Kim Steele
- 20 — Paul Maurer
- 21 — Sue Webster



January Anniversaries:

None

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



ALTERNATIVE USES FOR FRUITCAKE

1. Service Station Restroom Keychain
2. Better traction in the winter (place in trunk or truck bed)
3. Speed Bump
4. Target Practice
5. Bird Feeder
6. Paper Weight
7. Cup Holder—may have to drill hole
8. Cat Perch
9. Doorstop
10. Anchor
11. Decorative Bookends
12. Decorative Pin Cushion
13. Step Aerobics
14. Mafia Cement Block Replacement
15. Fireplace Logs
16. Platform Shoes
17. Sand Bags
18. Bunker Building Material
19. Bunker Food that won't expire
20. Water Saver in your toilet tank



Listen to Kirk Talley sing about Fruitcake:

<https://youtu.be/6-G3ruZBp48>

More 2017 Events & Celebrations

Mark these dates on your new 2017 calendar (in pencil).

February 2017

- 02** — Ground Hog Day
- 04** — Vestry Retreat Day, Parish Hall,
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- 05** — Christian Education Committee meeting
after service
- 06** — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry
volunteer day
- 08** — *Journey in Faith*, Parish Hall, 6:00 p.m.
- 14** — Valentine's Day
- 20** — St. John's, Food Pantry volunteer day
- 20** — Presidents' Day
- 21** — MVMA meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 28** — Shrove Tuesday Pancake & Sausage
Supper, 6:00 p.m.

March 2017

- 01** — MVMA *Ashes to Go*: (Ash Wednesday)
- 01** — Ash Wednesday Service, 6:00 p.m.
- 02** — Clergy Ember Day Gathering
- 05** — First Sunday of Lent (The Great Litany)
- 06** — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry
volunteer day
- 08** — First Wednesday Night Lenten Soup
Supper & Program, 6:00 p.m.
- 12** — Daylight Savings Time begins
- 15** — Second Wednesday Night Lenten Soup
Supper & Program, 6:00 p.m.
- 16** — Vestry Meeting, 6:00p.m.
- 17** — St. Patrick's Day
- 20** — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry volunteer
day
- 21** — MVMA meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 22** — Third Wednesday Night Lenten Soup
Supper & Program, 6:00p.m.
- 20-24** — Mt. Vernon School District Spring
Break
- 26** — Rose Sunday (Anglican Mothers'
Sunday)
- 27&28** — Clergy meet with Bishop Cate for
final retreat/Ending of Pastoral Relationship
- 29** — Fourth Wednesday Night Lenten Soup
Supper & Program, 6:00p.m.

April 2017

- 01** — April Fool's Day
- 02** — Fifth Sunday of Lent: Service of Healing.
- 03** — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry
volunteer day
- 05** — Last Wednesday Night Lenten Soup
Supper & Program, 6:00p.m.
- 09** — Palm Sunday, Procession of Palms and
Passion Gospel Reading
- 13** — Maundy Thursday, Agape Meal at
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m.
with Stripping of the Altar at Reserve
Sacrament Altar
- 14** — Ministerial Association Community
Good Friday Service, 12:05 p.m.
- 14** — St. John's Good Friday Service, 6:00pm
Way of the Cross and Holy Eucharist
- 15** — Easter Vigil Service, 7:00pm; End of
Lent pitch-in reception after the service
- 16** — Easter Morning Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 17** — St. John's, MVMA Food Pantry
volunteer day
- 18** — MVMA meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 20** — Vestry meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- 22** — Farewell Liturgy and Party for Bishop
Cate
- 23** — Precious Posies Baby Shower, first
collection Sunday
- 29** — Consecration of new Bishop (Jennifer),
Clowes Hall, Butler University,
11:00 a.m.
- 30** — Precious Posies Baby Shower, second
collection Sunday

**Many listed events are tentative; please
continue to check the events listed in each
month's newsletter, the Sunday bulletins,
or our church website.**

www.mvstjohns.org/calendar.htm

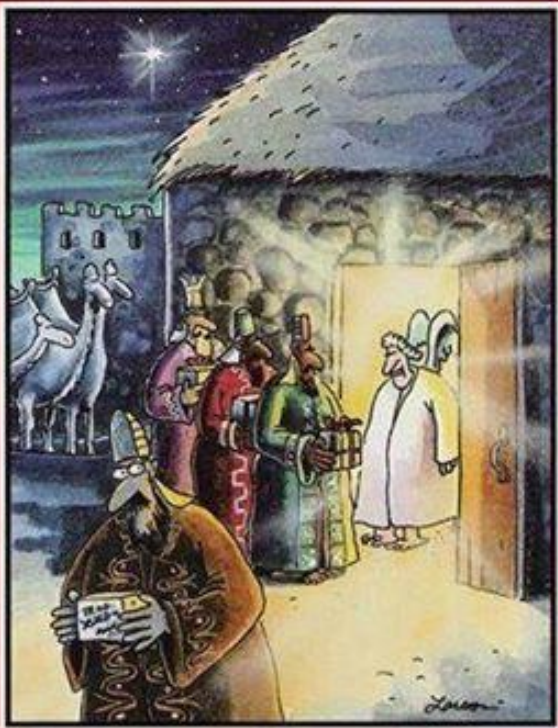
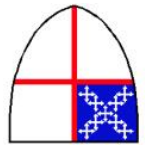
Serving Christ through... Connecting Kids to God



Father Allen invites the children to be prophets and evangelists to spread God's message to have "Patience" and "Believe".



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



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing fruitcake.



Coffee Hour or Comedy Hour?