



Saint John's Spirit

St. John's Episcopal Church + Rev. Jan Oller, Priest-in-Charge
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DECEMBER 2013



Advent begins December 1, 2013. Our time together of waiting for the birth of the Christ child with all the mystery of the season and hope for new life and new relationship with God and with each other. Each Sunday we light a candle on our Advent Wreath, a visible sign of what is coming. Each Sunday we sing hymns that express our longing for the Christ child. The “now and not yet” of God’s realm on earth, when all will live in peace and harmony. A time to dream that *the lion will lie down with the lamb*. *O come, o come, Emmanuel*.

In a world so often fraught with danger and violence- a day does not pass but what there is news of murder or other violence – even tornadoes and super typhoons. Sad, heartbreaking stories of life gone wrong. Is it possible to be hopeful when all around us, every day, we see life gone so terribly wrong?

Advent is about waiting – even in the dark and even when we don’t know what the future brings. Susan Bock quotes Gertrude Mueller Nelson who says that “waiting is ‘mysteriously necessary to all that is becoming’ and especially to the becoming of souls. So every time of waiting is soul-work and a wait for God. ...If we will keep company with our waiting,...if we will look up and not lose heart, then while we wait, in the waiting, because of the waiting, God will come.”¹ *O come, o come, Emmanuel*.

It is not always easy to wait. Anyone who has sat in a hospital waiting room while a loved one has surgery knows how slowly time can pass. Anyone who has sat with someone dying or someone giving birth knows that the waiting is not easy. Anyone waiting on that letter saying your application has been approved knows the anxiety of having your life plans in the hands of others.

God waits with us, in good times and in hard times. Waiting in quietness and in peace. *O come, o come, Emmanuel*.

Rev. Jan

¹ Susan Bock. Liturgy for the Whole Church (New York: Church Publishing, 2008), 19.



Taize Service- Wednesday December 4 at 6 p.m.

Join us in the church for this service of quiet, prayer, candlelight and gentle songs. Taize is a community founded after World War II in France and is a place of pilgrimage for persons from around the world even today. A Taize service offers us a chance to be quiet in the midst of busy life. A place to reflect upon God’s goodness and mercy even when we have not been as loving towards our neighbor as we might have been. A time to pray.



Children’s Christmas Pageant. Don’t miss out! Come see what the

children are up to this year. They present their annual gift to us on **December 15th** at the 10:30 a.m. service. Maybe some new sheep or a shepherd or even a Hmmm, you’ll have to come and see.



Can you help?

We need volunteers to spend about 15 minutes with Jim Suren to learn how to operate our audio visual equipment. If you are willing, please contact Jim who will set up a time to meet with you.



REINdear Project. The REINdear project for Christmas gifts.

St Johns has agreed to provide Christmas gifts to 60 Montgomery County children in need, again this year, through the outreach committee. This is a huge project, but we've shown that we can do it.

Each child, screened by the YSB, will be receiving a bag with 2 wanted items, usually toys, and 2 needed items, usually clothing. Often small stocking stuffer-like items are added also.

There are several ways to donate.

- 1) Your family can purchase all 4 items for a specific child
- 2) Your family can combine with another family to purchase all items for a child.
- 3) The committee has already obtained many donated items to partially fill bags.

You can choose a bag to complete. This is the most popular choice.

4) You could donate specific items that you may have to partially fill a bag, the committee would try to match the item to the child that would appreciate it, and complete filling the bag.

5) You could make a financial donation for the committee to shop for gift items. Partially filled and empty bags with the child's information will be available in Whitlock Hall. The completed bags filled with unwrapped gifts will be due at St Johns by Dec 14. If you are interested in providing all items for a particular child, please let me know as soon as possible, including what sex and what age you would like to buy for. Thanks. *Ellen Ball 765.362.1357 balltwar@sbcglobal.net*



Join us for a glass of wine and fellowship! Parish Life invites you to a wine tasting at Coal Creek Cellars on Sunday December 8th @ 2 p.m. See Susan Albrecht for more details.

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The FISH Food Pantry is in need of the following items. If you are planning to make a Thanksgiving donation to FISH, please consider shopping for any of the following items: soup, macaroni and cheese, skillet dinners (Hamburger Helper), canned corn, spaghetti sauce, laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper.

The FISH Linen Closet needs the following: sheets, blankets, towels, washcloths.

FISH also collects money which is used to help house people in emergency situations, usually families in transition. Money also goes for emergency utility bills or transportation to appointments out of town. If you want to donate to FISH, write checks to FISH of Montgomery County, and mail it to FISH c/o First United Methodist Church.



Expense in the month of October exceeded income by \$3,432, primarily due to pledged income coming in \$1,953 less than budget and expenses running \$976 more than budget. Overall, St John's finances are still in good shape year to date with pledged income running \$664 ahead of budget and total expenses running \$19,350 below budget. We will however incur higher than normal expense during the final two months for facility repairs and our diocesan assessment which was inadvertently not paid in in September. Year to date income has exceeded expense by \$14,126, resulting in an Operating Fund balance of \$43,753 at the end of October. *Ed Fain, Finance Chair*

Adult Forum for December

- Dec. 1- Intergenerational Advent Wreath making/Whitlock Hall
- Dec. 8 and 22 – The Gospel of Matthew



Rev. Jan on vacation. Rev. Jan will be on vacation from December 9-18. If there is a pastoral emergency, please contact Sr. Warden, Jim Suren, or Jr. Warden, Randy Pickering (their numbers are in the parish directory). Rev. Bill Wieland will supply on December 15th.

DECEMBER 2013

| Date & Time | Lector | Lay Eucharistic Minister(s) | Crucifer / Acolyte | Greeters | Altar Guild | Offering Tally | Altar Flowers | Coffee Hr. Host | *LEVs |
|----------------|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| *Dec.. 1 @ 8am | | Randy P | Peter S | Mary Angela C. & CJ C | Sheila E & Jane G | Jim G & Barb E | None in Advent | OPEN | MAC, Dan, Helen |
| 10:30am | Marc H | Dan B & Marc H | Sam H & Chas C | | | | | | |
| Dec. 8 @ 8am | | Kitty H/Adrienne A | Kitty H | Sam and Susie H | Jerrilyn Y & Terry L | Nancy B & Susan A | None in Advent | OPEN | None |
| 10:30am | Sam V | John & Betty C | John C & Larry B | | | | | | |
| Dec. 15 @ 8am | | Jim S. | Cyndy F. | Marc & Helen H. | CJ C. & Cyndy F. | Tom T & Alan W | None in Advent | Elaine Pickering | None |
| 10:30am | Jill L | Adrienne A & Larry B | Chas C & Randy P | | | | | | |
| Dec. 22 @ 8am | | Meribeth K | Peter S | Jo T & Nancy Y | Carole M & Jo T | Ed F & Barb E | None in Advent | OPEN | None |
| 10:30am | Barb E | Kim R & Randy P | Steve C. & CJ C | | | | | | |
| Dec. 29 @ 8am | | Jim S | Cyndy F | Larry & Nancy B | Betty C & Meegan R | Jim G & John R | Altar Guild | OPEN | None |
| 10:30am | Alex L | Meribeth K & Larry B | Randy P/Peggy L | | | | | | |

* Said Service - no crucifer needed

* Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Meals on Wheels: NO Meals on Wheels in December

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please find a substitute and let the church office know as soon as possible. Adrienne Ashbaugh creates the schedule for greeters, lectors, LEMs, acolytes, and crucifers. If you have scheduling questions, please contact her at (765) 362-6845.



Christmas Eve services will be at 5:30 p.m. and at 10:30 p.m.



Christmas Day service will be at 9 a.m.

December 2013 at St. John's Episcopal Church, Crawfordsville

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|-----------------------------|---|
| 1 Advent One 8 & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15 Whitlock: Advent Wreath making-all ages Noon-LEV meeting in Library 4 p EFM/Whitlock | 2 Rev. Jan day off 11:30-1:30 League of Women Voters in Whitlock | 3 9:25 Wabash Chapel 10am Bible Study 5-9 p.m. Professional Women's Christmas Party in Whitlock | 4 7:30am Centering Prayer 12:15p Midweek Service 12:30 – 4pm Garden Club (Whitlock Hall) 6 p.m. Taize (Church) | 5 7pm Choir | 6 | 7 8:30-12:30 Divorce Workshop in Library/Kussmauls |
| 8 Advent Two 8 & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Adult Forum and Sunday School 2 p.m. Coal Creek Cellars Wine tasting 4 p. EfM in Whitlock | 9 Rev. Jan day off | 10 Rev. Jan vacation | 11 Rev. Jan vacation 7:30am Centering Prayer 12:15p Midweek Service in Whitlock Hall 8p. Wabash Festival of Carols | 12 Rev. Jan vacation 7pm Choir | 13 Rev. Jan vacation | 14 11:30-3 p. Branham party 5-11 p. Chas C. Party |
| 15 Advent Three Rev. Jan vacation Rev. Bill Wieland supply 8 & 10:30am Eucharist 10:30-Children's Pageant 9:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School | 16 Rev. Jan day off | 17 Rev. Jan vacation | 18 Rev. Jan vacation 7:30am Centering Prayer 12:15p Midweek Service in Whitlock Hall 7 p. Vestry | 19 <u>DEADLINE FOR JAN. NEWSLETTER</u> 7pm Choir | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Advent Four 8 & 10:30am Eucharist 9:15am Adult Forum & Sunday School Noon-Greening of the Church 4 p. EfM in Whitlock | 23 Rev. Jan in office | 24 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist 10:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist | 25 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist | 26 Office Closed | 27 Office Closed | 28 |
| 29 Christmas One 8 & 10:30am Eucharist – Lessons & Carols 4 p. EfM in Whitlock | 30 Rev. Jan day off | 31 | REV. JAN is Available by appointment | To contact Rev. Jan Cell phone: (765)225-8554 Email: janet.oller@gmail.com | | |