



BUILDING THE BODY OF CHRIST  
ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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December 2008

St. John's Episcopal Church

# December Epistle

## From the Rector

It's December, and what's a newsletter without a Christmas message, right? Wrong. You see before it is Christmas it is Advent, those four weeks that mark the beginning of another Church year, those four weeks that always lead the way to the Feast of the Nativity, those four weeks we count off with the Advent wreath, and those four weeks when we hear about John the Baptizer and Mary, the mother of Jesus. Just as you and I do our own preparations at home for the experience of Christmas, the Church year begins with Advent and calls us to prepare for Jesus' coming.

Do you remember how Jesus' people had a hard time recognizing him in the Gospels? Some thought he was possessed. Some thought he was a threat. Some thought he would pull out a sword. Some thought he was just Mary and Joseph's boy, you know, the neighborhood kid we all knew. The Gospels tell us that not many had a handle on knowing him; and, if we would be honest with ourselves, we still struggle to know him today.

Advent is a time for space to wrestle with Christmas, who Jesus is, and what does it mean to say "Immanuel" - "God with us", not that we ever reach the definitive answer or can box Jesus in but we come back to it time and again. In fact, I rather think that is what God would

like, for us to ask some questions again and again. *Who is Jesus? What was he about? Why did the world need him? And with those questions go some other important ones, too. Who am I? What am I about? Why do I need him?*

This is an awful lot to pack into just four weeks. Realistically, with all of the stuff we lay out for ourselves as necessary things to do, the questions are probably the last things pulled out for decorating the season. There is so much to do and so many things to remember. "Slow down!" might be the common chorus. Perhaps Jesus' people said the same thing to him. The Gospels, especially Mark's, has a rather fast-paced immediacy to it, as if God does not always wait for us. I guess that in reality after all it is his time and not ours. Graciously, he gives us a whole other year to work on the answers and, in the liturgical cycle of the church, ample chances to work out the answers again and again, even to start over when we need to.

But, in the meantime, may there be some moments to dwell with Immanuel, which means 'God with us', and think about Jesus, his people, why they needed him, why he needed them, his world and ours, and our own life in him.

Meister Eckhart once said: "What good is it that Christ was born 2,000 years ago if he is not born now in your heart?" and offered this Christmas prayer.

*"Lord, we do far too much celebrating your actual coming in our hearts. I believe in God, but do I believe in God-in-me? I believe in God in heaven, but do I believe in God-on-earth? I believe in God out there, but do I believe in God-with-us? Lord, be born in my heart. Come alive in me this Christmas! Amen."* - Jerry Fisher

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## Senior Warden's Corner

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I am writing this on the day before Thanksgiving. At my yoga class today, my teacher reminded me that we have so much to

be thankful for and that our yoga practice should reflect this attitude of thankfulness. How right she is. ALL our lives should reflect this attitude. Even in the worst of times, we have so much. Much of what we have in our country is nonmaterial. Although I think we

are an overly materialistic society, indeed, an overly materialistic world, we have so much else. We have a relatively stable, peaceful, free, open society and opportunities abound for contributions and rewards. So many countries have little of these.

We have freedom to worship as we please, or not to. I recently read that practicing yoga is being outlawed in some Muslim countries "because of its non-Muslim spiritual aspects." There are spiritual aspects, but they are not "non" anything. We have the freedom to change our religious

affiliation any time and for any reason - try THAT in Saudi Arabia!

This is my last Sr. Warden's corner. It has been a rewarding three years for me on the vestry. It has been a learning and growing experience. I have been blessed to associate with very fine vestry members and the vestry remains in very capable hands.

Bless you all and have a wonderful holiday season.

- Bill Goldston

## Christian Education

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**Plans for our Christmas Pageant and Cookie Reception on Christmas Eve at 3 'o clock are underway!** Volunteers are needed to help prompt small groups of children, move scenery, make cookies, and more. Sign-up sheets are posted outside the Sunday School classrooms for those who are interested in helping in any way.

Children who wish to participate in the pageant may sign up

beginning Sunday, Dec. 7. On Sunday, Dec 21, we will practice during the Sunday School time and distribute costumes. If your child misses the sign-up or practice, but still wishes to participate, please contact Catherine Massey at ([ctmassey@earthlink.net](mailto:ctmassey@earthlink.net)) 453-0269 or Mary Ellen Archer at ([mearcher@nc.rr.com](mailto:mearcher@nc.rr.com)) 862-8471 and we'll help find a part for him or her.

Please have children in costume in the parish hall by 2:40 on Christ-

mas Eve. Return costumes and join us for a cookie reception after the pageant.

- Ann Holmes



## Preschool News

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Thank you to all of the preschool families who donated food for our collection given to Tri-Area Ministries. Students enjoyed learning who would receive the food and sorting it for delivery.

The preschool has an opening in the Monday through Thursday 4-year-old class. Please call the preschool at 562-8619 for more information.

**Priority Registration** for the 2009/2010 school year will be held from January 12th through January 16th from 9:15 until 9:45am & from 11:45 until 12:15 each day. Priority Registration includes current students, siblings, and church members.

An Open House for prospective families will be held on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Detailed information, paperwork, and tours will be provided at

the Open House. Please call 562-8619 to sign up for a time. Open Registration will be held January 20<sup>th</sup> through January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:15 until 12:15 each day.

The Christmas Program with the 4-year-old preschool classes will be held on Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 in the church sanctuary.

Anyone is welcome to join us.

Have a peaceful holiday.

- Kristen Baron

## Annual Meeting

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**St. John's Annual Meeting** will be on December 7<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 service. During the service, Bill Goldston and Tom Baker will present a snapshot of:

- 2008 actual financials
- 2009 budget and current pledges

- Capital Campaign status
- Successful programs active within St. Johns Church
- New programs starting up
- Discussion of any open questions from congregation time permitting

- Nomination and approval of new Vestry Members directed by Jerry
- Thanks to departing Vestry Members.

- Tom Baker

## St. John's Annual Joy of Christmas Program

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Once again St. John's Joy of Christmas program is in full swing! St John's will provide Christmas for 10 families (40 children) and 10 seniors. We hope you will open up your heart and help a child or senior.

If you would like to help, please come by after the church service and pick an angel (for girls), gingerbread man (for boys) or star (for seniors) off of the tree. All gifts need to be at the church by Sunday, December 14, 2008. The ECW will

be providing the meals to the families and seniors.

-Carolyn Stoklas

*From Julie Arthur...*

*One year, I called an elderly lady who had been on the Seniors' list for several years, to ask if she knew of anything that we might get for her for Christmas. She said she really needed a warm nightgown. She was battling cancer and spent a lot of time in bed. She told me her size and that she liked green and blue. A few days after Christmas, she called to say how*

*much she loved the gown. She said, "It's the most beautiful shade of mint green and it is so soft and just the right length, 'cause you know how short I am! And I told my family that I wanted to be buried in that gown, if I didn't wear it out first!" Sadly, this lady did not live until the next Christmas.*

*A very thoughtful and generous member of St. John's really did share the Joy of Christmas when she bought that mint green nightgown.*

## 2009 North Raleigh/Wake Forest Relay for Life



It's time to start gearing up for the 2009 North Raleigh/Wake Forest Relay for Life! **The Kick Off Meeting** will be held in January, and we need some people to chair

the team this year. If you are interested in helping in any way, please contact Mary Ellen Archer at [mearcher@nc.rr.com](mailto:mearcher@nc.rr.com). We had a wonderful response last year, and St.

John's raised over \$3200 to further the research for a cure for Cancer. Let's see if we can top it this year!

## Poinsettia Time

The Flower Guild is preparing for our Christmas Season celebration and floral decorations in the church. If you would like to make dedications in memory of loved ones or in honor of your family and friends, you will find this order-form envelope in the narthex to record the information and enclose

your contribution to the Flower Guild.

The minimum suggested donation for poinsettia plants is \$15 each. This will help pay for all of our decorations at Christmas and help provide altar flowers throughout the year.

Memorial and thanksgiving dedi-

cations may be made throughout the year by signing up on the dedication list outside the church office. The suggested donation for them is \$50.

We do our own arrangements each week and welcome any who would like to take part in this work to honor God and his people.



### Order Form for Christmas Poinsettias

Your  
Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of plants:

# \_\_\_\_\_

You may place  
this in the offering  
plate or in the  
church office.

In Memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Our Parishioners and Their Families:

**Tom**, Tom Baker's father  
**Nancy Blackman**, Jean McCamy's cousin  
**Nancy**, Karen Bell's mother  
**Bob**, Kathy Binns' husband  
**Christine Bull**, niece of Jack & Dagmar Derrick  
**Jay Chapman**, Carol Smith's father  
**Wayne and Nancy Clausen**  
**Silvia Travaglione**, Laura Santos's sister-in-law  
**Mary Alyce Calhoun**, Maggie Goldston's sister  
**R.V. Cate**, Jackie & Amy Bailey's brother-in-law  
**Ruth Dancy**, Mollie River's daughter  
**Virginia Currie / Frankie Epps / Sarah Fort**  
**Magen Ferland**, Emily Duplessis' friend  
**Brenda Gainey**, Milly Nelligar's sister  
**Dot Hinton**  
**Arlene Homan**, Joyce McPherson's mother  
**Drew Hoover's mother and father**  
**Cheryl Lasek**, Cindy Nanni's sister-in-law  
**Adam & Kathryn Martin-Meurer**, Mary Martin's daughter and son-in-law  
**Anna Melvin**, Roger's sister  
**Barbara and Gene Montague**  
**Nick**, Sheryl Friedrichs' husband  
**Lisa M. Robertson**, Gene and Barbara's daughter  
**Regina Morris**, friend of The Hall Family  
**Susan Neely**  
**Liz Newberry**, Sallie Newberry's daughter-in-law  
**Hudson Nowell**, Shawn and Craig's nephew  
**Robert Hart Raynor**, Milly Nelligar's cousin  
**Frank Toney**  
**Nellie Trawick**, Cindy Hall's grandmother  
**Linda Wolfgang**, Dave McPherson's cousin

## Those Who Have Died:

**Kathryn Hill**, Bob Hill's mother

## Our Friends:

**Lille Boyte**  
**Steve Brooks**  
**Claudia Brugaletta**  
**Nancy Coats**  
**Diane Davis**  
**Jackie Diaz-Cid**  
**Jim Duke**  
**Laura Faulkner**  
**Dee Gillespie**  
**Eric Hansen**  
**Tommy Heldreth**  
**Barbara Kearns**  
**Anna Lee Long**  
**Maria Luddy**  
**Paul Mosier**  
**Betty Padgett**  
**Eva Martinez Paharik**  
**Gary Pike**  
**Marisa Rosa**  
**Tom Schwab**  
**Clark Shelton**  
**Deborah Snow**  
**Vann Taylor**  
**Louise Young**

## Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:

**Thomas**, son of Tom and Darden Baker  
**John**, son of Pinky & David Cooke  
**Eric Fancher**, brother of Jessica Graber  
**Kenneth Farrar III**  
**Steven**, son of Carolyn Filo  
**Matt Jeanerett**, nephew of Greg & Sonia Ingram  
**Frank Kelly**, Frank & Carol Smith's grandson  
**Michael Klump**, brother of Kathy Binns  
**Megan**, daughter of Gene & Shelley Leone  
**Sean Lynch**, friend of Pinky & David Cooke  
**Kevin and Chad Marshall**, friends of Virginia Olsen  
**Zachary McBee**  
**Ryan McDavitt**  
**Thomas McDonald**, friend of Kristen Davis  
**Ben Miller and Drew Holt**, nephews of Lee and Perri Holt  
**Josh Norton**, friend of Mike Barger  
**Kyle Weinel**

# December 2008

## St. John's Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>7</p> <p>Parish Annual Meeting 8 &amp; 10 Eucharist 10:00 AM Church School 5:00 PM Sr. EYC</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>5:30 PM GS Troop 890</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8 &amp; 10 Eucharist 10:00 AM Church School 5:00 PM Sr. EYC</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:15 AM -12:30 PM Christmas at St. John's Craft Market</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:15 AM -12:30 PM Christmas at St. John's Craft Market 12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8 &amp; 10 Eucharist 10:00 AM Church School 5:00 PM Sr. EYC</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:30 AM TOPS 2:00 PM GS Troop 1537 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30 PM GS Troop 890 7:00 PM Vestry Meeting</p>	<p>17</p> <p>12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8 &amp; 10 Eucharist 10:00 AM Church School 5:00 PM Sr. EYC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>23</p> <p>5:30 PM GS Troop 890</p>	<p>24</p> <p>3:00 PM Christmas Pageant 8:00 PM 8 &amp; 11 Christmas Eve Services 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>8 AM The Feast of the Nativity</p>	<p>26</p> <p>8:00 PM AA 8:00 PM Alanon</p>	<p>27</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8 &amp; 10 Eucharist 10:00 AM Church School 5:00 PM Sr. EYC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:30 AM TOPS 7:00 PM Women's Bible Study 8:00 PM AA</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>12:15 PM Midweek Communion 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 8:00 PM AA</p>			

Nov 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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						

Jan 2009						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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

Send Calendar Events to [sjohnswf.com](mailto:sjohnswf.com)

# December Ministry Schedule and Propers

07-Dec	Advent 2	8:00	Sean Leech	Jodi LaFreniere	Bob Bidwell	Al Reynolds	Flower Guild	Sharon Davenport	
		10:00	Jacob Holt	Jim Davenport	Harold Davis	The Holst Family	Durward Matheny	Ruth Crawford	
			Charlton Holt	Sharon Spangler			Michael McDuffie		
14-Dec	Advent 3	8:00	Conner Williams	Jan Williams	Bob Bidwell	Greg Williams	Flower Guild	Vivian Jones	
		10:00	Kristen Kramer	Sally Fisher	Lee Holt	John Rich and	Dave McPherson	Melanie Murphy	
			Hunter Kramer	Mayla Gilliam		Melanie Murphy	Roger Melvin		
21-Dec	Advent 4	8:00	Patrick Barham	Bob Bidwell	Bob Bidwell	Tom Baker	Flower Guild	Elizabeth McDuffie	
		10:00	Vann McDuffie	Elena Harp	Tom Marshall	Elwood and Helen	Louis Mullinger	Patti Reichmeider	
			John McDuffie	Al Hinton		Munz	Bob Nelligar		
24-Dec	Christmas Eve	3 pm	Childrens' Christmas Pageant						Arline McCullough
		8 pm	Jacob Holt	Lisa Hunt	Kristen Davis	Dave Roberts	Denise Munz		
			Sean Leech	Craig Johnson		David Williams Jr			
			Conner Williams						
		11 pm	Vann McDuffie	Vivian Jones	Durward Matheny	Frank Smith, Al Reynolds			
		Patrick Barham	Donna King		Frank Toney and Jon Bell				
		Kristen Kramer							
28-Dec	Christmas 1	8:00	Conner Williams	Elwood Munz	Bob Bidwell	Larry Demanovich	Flower Guild	Alfie Adams	
		10:00	Sean Leech	Tom Marshall	Kenille Baumgardner	Ed and Sid Reynolds	Jim and Sharon	Jenny Brewer	
			Philip Paige	Rachel Pottern			Davenport		
		Sidnev Osborne							

## The First Sunday of Advent, November 30<sup>th</sup> - Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80; 1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Second Sunday of Advent, December 7<sup>th</sup> - Isaiah 40:1-11; Psalm 85; 2 Peter 3:8-15a; Mark 1:1-8

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Third Sunday of Advent, December 14<sup>th</sup> - Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 21<sup>st</sup> - 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16; Canticle 15; Romans 16:25-27; Luke 1:26-38

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## The Feast of the Nativity, December 24<sup>th</sup> - Isaiah 62:6-12, Psalm 97, Titus 3:4-7, Luke 2:1-20

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.



## St. John's Episcopal Church

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Tara and Brian Henderson  
Perri Holt  
Laura Santos  
Chris Walkup

Building the Body of Christ

## From the Parish Register



**Welcome to our newly enrolled, confirmed members:**

**David Bennett, Carole Dubber, Ellen Holst, Megan Holst, Kate Jarest, Mary Martin, David Paff, Samuel Paff, and Spencer Paige.**

*Renew in us the covenant made at Baptism [and]  
send us forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service set before us.*

## December Birthdays

- |                                    |  |   |                                     |
|------------------------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Hamlin Landis<br>Jan Williams    | 7 Jeffrey Long<br>Tammy Warriner                     | 19 Laura Doster<br>Dave McPherson<br>Joe Powell | 23 Craig Johnson<br>24 Louis Arthur |
| 2 Al Hinton                        | 11 James Rollmann                                    | 20 Dennis Stever                                | 29 Caitlin Lownes                   |
| 4 Braxton Reynolds<br>Sloan Walkup | 15 Shirley McHose                                    | 21 Jodi LaFreniere                              | 30 Marissa Sloan                    |
| 5 Eric Lownes<br>Jesse Reichmeider | 17 Tiffany Bell<br>Karen Wilson                      | 22 Mallory Houston                              | 31 Elise Archer                     |
| 6 Amy McDavitt<br>Alex Paff        | 18 Ruth Crawford<br>Caitlin Lewis<br>Joyce McPherson | 23 Jon Bell<br>Pinky Cooke                      |                                     |