

Good News from St. John's

December 2016

St. John's Episcopal Church
313 S. 18th St. – PO Box 882
Parsons, KS 67357



620-421-4540

www.StJohnsParsons.org

MISSION STATEMENT: With God's help, we seek to share our love, fellowship, charity and faith with all in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 12 Days of Christmas and Epiphany

One of the great opportunities we have these days is to savor the Christmas season. Christmas is not a single day; it's a season over a period of 12 days. Having prayed that our Lord might come to us, we can let the reality of His coming enter more deeply into our daily experience, by savoring the story and letting His being one with us become a more conscious reality as these stories intersect our daily lives.

Imagine yourself in the stable.

Listen to what Mary & Joseph are saying to each other.

Let yourself be moved by how open the shepherds were to this mystery.

Did you want to hold the Christ child?

What happened to you as you looked at the Christ child, knowing he would die on a cross, but would be raised to breathe the Holy Spirit into us all?

The Feast of Epiphany, one of seven principal feasts, is celebrated on the 6th day of January. Most years we have celebrated the Epiphany the Sunday following; however, this year we will be celebrating Epiphany on Friday January 6, 2017 at 6:30 pm with the Holy Eucharist and a celebration following in the parish house.

The Three big events we remember in Epiphany are:

The visit of the wise men bringing gifts to the Christ child, who by so doing "reveal" Jesus to the world as Lord and King.

The flight of Mary & Joseph with baby Jesus to Egypt to escape the threat of Jesus' young life from King Herod.

Jesus' baptism by John in the river Jordan revealed his divinity as the Son of God.

May you have a Holy and blessed Christmas & Epiphany season.

Mother Sharon

Letter from the Bishop

November 13, 2016

My Dear Friends,

In the 14th year of my consecration as the Bishop of Kansas, I have found myself reflecting on the ministry I share with all of you. Over the years I have served here, I have grown to love the people of Kansas, and I have grown to love this land where the prairie meets the plains. I am drawn to the open skies and the expansive hearts of the Midwest. I am at home in a place located at the center, which draws people of differing thoughts and backgrounds to inhabit a common ground. And I have discovered the deepest satisfaction in what we have been able to accomplish together. But I have also wondered when my time as your leader should come to a close. It's hard to judge the right time to leave a great ministry. Leave too early and you haven't accomplished what God intended. Leave too late and you frustrate the Spirit's intentions. I believe, however, it is best to leave a little too early than to leave a little too late.

So, after a period of deep and prayerful discernment, I have decided to accept a new call to serve as Rector of St. Barts Episcopal Church in New York City, beginning February 5, 2017.

What makes this leave-taking so difficult is the love and respect I hold for all of you. I have absolutely loved living and working with you as your bishop, and together we have accomplished so many of our dreams. We created a new school for ministry, reinvented our campus ministry programs, and soon we will break ground on a new diocesan leadership center. We created a refugee resettlement ministry and found ways to disagree about any number of theo-political issues without tearing ourselves apart. We have raised up a cadre of gifted younger clergy to serve the diocese, and our spiritual health is sound. I have been privileged to pray at your hospital bedsides, bury your relatives, celebrate your triumphs and find consolation with you in your defeats. I find myself both astonished and humbled by the progress we have made together over the past 13 years, and I am equally

astonished and humbled by all that remains to be done.

So why would a bishop want to return to parish work? Almost any bishop can tell you the answer to that question. If you love parish ministry, you cannot help but miss it. Serving in a parish will provide me an opportunity to focus on the work that drew me into the ministry in the first place. I have a deep passion for preaching and teaching, and having heard God's still, small voice in the midst of all the other voices, I am able to place my complete trust in this call.

We are part of a larger Church, and I have requested the support of the Presiding Bishops Office of Pastoral Development, whose work provides direct assistance to dioceses in transition. We are blessed with a strong Council of Trustees, a seasoned diocesan staff, sound financial resources, a vibrant faculty at the Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, solid Convocation deans, and some of the most committed lay and ordained leaders in the entire Episcopal Church. This is why Kansas is such a great place to do creative ministry – and this is why my grief in leaving you is so genuine.

I ask you to continue to place your faith and trust in these good leaders and to honor their decisions and actions in a transitional time. I beg you, as Paul invited his followers, “to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4:1-3)

In the meantime, please be assured I intend to fully serve as your Bishop until the last possible moment of transition. My energies are committed to the most pressing and necessary challenges presently before us, and I will do everything in my power to leave things in right order for the 10th Bishop of Kansas.

As we approach the season of Advent, we are reminded again and again of the coming of Jesus, who is among us as savior, servant and king. We proclaim Jesus Christ, the center of all things. God

has always presided over his Church, and God always will. We, all of us, are called to be faithful stewards of what has never been ours to keep.

Ellen, William and I ask for your prayers as we continue on this astonishing journey, and we will continue to be faithful in our prayers for you. May the Lord continue to richly bless your lives and your ministries. You have been such a profound blessing to each one of us.

Grace & Peace,

The Right Reverend Dean E. Wolfe, D.D

Ninth Bishop

The Episcopal Diocese of Kansas

During the time that Mother Sharon will be recovering from surgery, please contact the Senior Warden, Candy Scarborough at 421-4170 or cds1968@att.net, with any concerns, for pastoral care, or a Priest.

Thank You

Glenda Johnson would like to thank Gary Chubb and Alice Miller for providing information so she could get a big button phone for helping her see better when making phone calls for greeters and coffee hour hosts.

2017 Stewardship Campaign

The 2017 Stewardship Campaign has come to a close and I am pleased to announce it was a huge success. There are still a couple of pledge sheets to be returned and Mother Sharon is still tallying the time and talent pledges. In the meantime, our treasurer has reported the financial pledge commitment for 2017 is up almost 12% over the previous year with 2017 pledges of \$59,114 compared to 2016 pledges of \$52,900.

A **Great Big Thank You** to all who pledged. And, if your commitment of time and talent parallels your commitment to financially support St. John's, we anticipate a good year in 2017! With your support, our outreach ministries will continue to grow, participation in parish activities will increase, and our parish will stay strong for future generations.

We will set our budget and form our ministry teams based on the commitments you have shared.

Remember, it is never too late to make your pledge of time, talent, and treasure and it is never too late to volunteer for a new activity or ministry. If you feel a call to do something new, don't be shy!

Thanks again to all who have made our planning for 2017 an easier task.

Gary Chubb
Chairman
Stewardship Campaign

St. John's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

November 14, 2016

Present: Alice Miller, Candy Scarborough, Gloria Young, Martha Stone, Gary Chubb, Verlyn Bolinger, Jupe Allen and Mother Sharon.

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples suspended in favor of using time to create the 2017 budget.

Treasurer's report:

The previous Treasurers report was discussed and approved.

Stewardship:

2017 pledge report- 13 pledges for \$54,537.

2017 Budget: Pending.

Old Business:

Grandview will measure the counter top to replace it after we get the new sink.

The basement classrooms have been finished. Now ready to be moved into.

A bid has been received to mow the yard for \$45 per time for next summer.

Safe Child Training was attended by Martha and Laurie.

The Vision Task force will meet this weekend (Nov 19-20).

New Business:

SE Convocation board met and set dates for meetings in 2017.

The nominating committee for 2017 is Verlyn, Alice and Gloria.

Positions open are:

Verlyn's 3 year Vestry term- Verlyn will seek reelection

Alice's 3 year Vestry term- it is open

Gloria's unexpired 2 year Vestry term- Alice will seek election to this position

Senta's Endowment trustee term- Senta will seek reelection

Joe's Delegate position- Joe will seek reelection

Martha's Alternate position- Martha will seek reelection.

A Lector workshop will be held January 21, 2017.
The Annual Meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2017.

Ministry teams are to have a display at Annual meeting and write an article for the newsletter next year.

Laurie the childcare attendant has resigned, another applicant will be contacted.

The new policy for alcohol use in the church was reviewed.

Assessment:

Minutes from the October 17 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: While on surgical leave the Senior Warden is in charge.

Morning Prayer will be held December 4 and 11 with Father Wiley officiating on the 18th.

Reports from the Wardens:

SR-No report

JR- No report

Discernment:

Worship & Music: Discussed personnel for Christmas services.

Outreach: OCC boxes will be blessed and packed November 20.

College: Schedule set for the upcoming months.

Communications: No report.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: Stewardship drive winding down.

Evangelism: Plans are underway for a Christmas Parade float.

Education: Advent Study will be based on text of

“ Not a Silent Night- Mary Looks Back at Jesus' Life” will start November 28.

Building & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: Balance of \$120,780.86 as of October 31.

ECW: Plans are complete for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

Next meeting: December 19, 2016.

Meeting closed with a prayer by Mother Sharon.

Jupe Allen, Clerk



Treasurer Report

The following is a brief report on how our 2016 pledges and donations received to date compare with 2015:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Total of pledges received	22	17
Total pledged (annual)	\$59,496	\$52,900

We are ahead of budget.

Thank you again for your generous and persistent support of our great church. Thank you for all who have pledged for 2017.

Verlyn W. Bolinger Jr.



Prayer List

Our prayers have been asked for:

Jim, Terry, Teresa, Jim, Sharon, Sammie, Ruth, Kris, Terrell, Mary, Harry, Jolene, Syrus, Gina, Gloria, Jennifer, James, Ethan, Adin, Judith, Cathryn, Betts & Umbarger families, Jim, Janie, April, Avery, Harrison, Austin, Michael, Fred, Jamie, Jim, Steve, William, Jim, Becky, Nolan, Troy, Carole, Diane & the Young family, Jackie, Julia, Kelly, Nick, Nicky, Kara, Phyllis, Wuanita, Trinity, Roger, Shelby, Kylie, Bruce, Vickie, Ethan, Marisa, Tiffany, Paula, Alison, Brogan, Gene & Helia & family, Raymond, Edie, Janelle, Bruce &

Katherine, Karla & the Nickel family, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, the Southeast Convocation Discernment Committee and nominees, President Obama & his family, all college ministries in the Diocese of Kansas, all Southeast Convocation clergy especially Gary and Dick, the Diocese of Kansas Council of Trustees and staff, the men and women serving our country here and abroad, and those who have served, and those persecuted for their faith in the Sudan.

Those who have died:

Jean Nickel



December Birthdays

7 Elsa Stone
11 Lynn Reeves
15 Gloria Young



December Anniversaries:

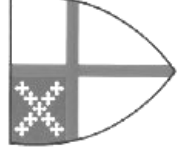
31 Sue and Clay Long

Please send Articles for The Good News to Senta Meister, sentabradmeister@aol.com or St. John's Episcopal Church, PO Box 882, Parsons, KS 67357.



St. John's Episcopal Church

DECEMBER 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	2	3
4 The Second Sunday of Advent Morning Prayer 9:30 am Pack Snack-paks after service	5 Advent Study 6:00 pm	6 Outreach 6:00 pm	7	8 L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	9	10
11 The Third Sunday of Advent Morning Prayer and Sunday School 9:30 am	12 Advent Study 6:00 pm	13	14 Parish Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm social 6:30 pm dinner	15 L&L 5:30 – 8 pm Newsletter Deadline	16	17
18 The Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Communion & Sunday School 9:30 am	19 Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	20 Advent Study 6:00 pm	21 Worship & Music meeting 6:00 pm	22	23	24 Christmas Carols 7:10 pm Holy Communion 7:30 pm
25 The Nativity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ Holy Communion 9.:30 am	26	27	28	29 Mother in office 1-5 pm	30	31

St. John's December 2016 schedule

	Morning Prayer 12/4/2016	Morning Prayer 12/11/2016	12/18/2016	Christmas Eve 12/24/2016	Said Service 12/25/2016
Officiant	Bess Stone- Bolinger	Verlyn Bolinger	Fr. George Wiley	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	None	None	Candy Scarborough	Candy Scarborough	None
Lector	Gloria Young	Linda Nichols	Alice Miller	Candy Scarborough	None
Acolytes	Katrinia Balke	Tim Downum	Tim Downum	Tim Downum Meisters, Bess & Verlyn Bolinger, Katrinia Balke, Joe Stone	Verlyn Bolinger
Eucharistic/ Pastoral Visitor	None	None	Daria Condon	None	None
Greeters	Bruce Lindemann, David Bamberger	Tom & Wuanita Tanner	Meister Family	Bruce Lindemann	None
Coffee Hour	Jim & Linda Nichols	Tommy & Fran McLarty	Meister Family	None	None
Counters	Jupe Allen, Alice Miller				
Altar Guild	Linda Nichols				