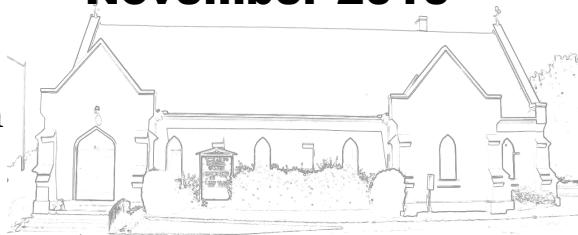


Good News from St. John's

November 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 SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Advent begins this year on Sunday November 27, 2016. There are several changes in the liturgy that comes with Advent. The **Gloria** disappears and is replaced with the **Kyrie**. We do a special lighting of the **Advent Wreath** with congregational participation. We also change to **Eucharistic Prayer B**.

The Adult education team has selected the book "Not A Silent Night" for the adult study to be held on Monday evening beginning November 28 and ending on December 19th. Study will begin at 6:30 pm and end by 8:00 pm. **Please let Mother Sharon or Martha know if you plan to attend so books can be ordered.** In Advent, we not only celebrate the first coming of our Lord, but eagerly prepare for His Second Coming as well, when the restoration of all things takes place.

The vestments and hangings change to **Royal Blue** to better distinguish the Season of Advent from Lent. On the third Sunday, the vestments and hangings will change to rose: for Gaudete Sunday, the plural form of the Latin verb "gaudere" which means to rejoice. In these days of preparation leading up to the feast of our Savior's birth, it reminds us of the joy that is to come, and serves, as a kind of "break" when we recall the hope we have because of the coming of Jesus.

The **Advent Wreath**, a circular evergreen wreath with four candles which reminds us of God Himself, His eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. The candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

We also have banners on our advent wreath; Hope, Peace, Love and Joy, that correspond with the four candles, and wall hangings. **The Sunday school children will be decorating of the Advent Jesse Tree on November 27th in lieu of a sermon.**

Christmas Eve the Advent candles are replaced with white candles and a center candle (the Christ candle) is added. The Christ candle reminds us that the incarnation is the heart of the season, giving light to the world. These white candles are lit through Epiphany.

It is our hope that this article has provided you some education about the Season of Advent and we look forward to worshipping with you as we ALL prepare for the Second coming of our Lord.

Adult Education Ministry Team
Martha Stone, and Mother Sharon

History of Thanksgiving Day

For many of us, the meaning of Thanksgiving usually includes feasting, four day weekend, football games, family reunions, or a forerunner to Christmas festivities. The “first Thanksgiving,” however, was neither a feast nor a holiday, but a simple gathering. Following the Mayflower's arrival at Plymouth Rock on December 11, 1620, the Pilgrims suffered the loss of 46 of their original 102 colonists. With the help of 91 Indians, the remaining Pilgrims survived the bitter winter and yielded a bountiful harvest in 1621. In celebration, a traditional English harvest festival, lasting three days brought the Pilgrims and natives to unite in a “thanksgiving” observance.

The “thanksgiving” meal would not be celebrated again until June of 1676. On June 29 the community of Charleston, Massachusetts proclaimed a day of thanksgiving for their good fortune. One hundred years later, in October of 1777, all 13 colonies participated one a one-time “thanksgiving” celebration which commemorated the victory over the British at Saratoga. It would take a span of over 150 years more to establish “Thanksgiving” as we celebrate it. George Washington proclaimed it a National holiday in 1789. Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November in 1863, and Congress sanctioned it as a legal holiday in 1941.

The meaning of Thanksgiving has undergone numerous transitions—an expression of gratitude for survival, a council's recognition of its flourishing community, submission of the local natives, the defeat over the British, resulting in a collection of our nation's traditions and values. Over the centuries, families added their customs to the Thanksgiving celebration, preserving that which they held most precious.

In the Bible, the meaning of thanksgiving reflected adoration, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. Thanksgiving was a grateful language to God as an act of worship. The true meaning of Thanksgiving focuses upon relationship. Thanksgiving is a relationship between God and man. Upon their arrival at new Plymouth, the Pilgrims composed the Mayflower Compact, which honored God. Thanksgiving begins with acknowledging God as

faithful, earnestly giving Him thanks, in advance, for His abundant blessings. Thanksgiving is an attitude of the heart that reinforces an intimate relationship with God.

Please join us on Thanksgiving day at noon, as we honor God by sharing the blessings he has given us, with all of you, our neighbors and friends.

I hope you will also attend the Community Thanksgiving Service on Sunday evening November 20th at Westside Christian Church at 6:00 p.m. The Parsons Ministerial Association provides this service to share the love of God and for the many blessings he has bestowed on all Christians in the Parsons community.

What is the Advent Jesse Tree?

I hope you will be at church on November 27th when the Sunday school children will decorate the Advent Jesse Tree. This article will give you an understanding of what the Advent Jesse Tree is and it's meaning.

The word Advent means coming and refers to the coming of Jesus. The Advent Jesse Tree emphasizes His coming in the flesh at Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. It also emphasizes His coming with the New Covenant and His second coming when he will return to judge all of mankind. The Advent season is a time for all of us to prepare for these comings.

The Advent Jesse Tree seeks to tell the story of God's redemptive plan for the world through 25 symbols from the Old and New Testament. The symbols trace the heritage of Jesus from the beginning of creation.

Symbol #1	The light in Creation
Symbol #2	The First Sin
Symbol #3	Inside the Ark
Symbol #4	The Call to Abram
Symbol #5	Isaac and the Lamb
Symbol #6	Jacob's Ladder
Symbol #7	Joseph's Coat of Many Colors
Symbol #8	Moses and the 10 Commandments
Symbol #9	Canaan, the Promised Land od Blessings

Symbol #10	Ruth & Boaz
Symbol #11	King David
Symbol #12	Josiah finds the Law
Symbol #13	Prophecy of shoot from the Stump of Jesse
Symbol #14	Prophecy of the Lion and Lamb
Symbol #15	Prophecy of the Prince of Peace
Symbol #16	Prophecy of a Gentle Shepherd
Symbol #17	Prophecy of the Suffering Servant
Symbol #18	Prophecy of the New Covenant
Symbol #19	Prophecy of Bethlehem
Symbol #20	The Exile
Symbol #21	The Return of the Land
Symbol #22	The Star
Symbol #23	The Light of the World
Symbol #24	Angels proclaiming the Coming of Christ
Symbol #25	The Birth of Jesus

Please take a moment and look at the symbols on the Advent Jesse Tree.

Mother Sharon

Evangelism Update

As we, The Evangelism Team, prepare for the upcoming events of winter, we just wanted to share with you what we are planning for in December. We are preparing to present a float in the December Parade "Make Room for the King!" Individuals have been asked for volunteering for the float and its many facets, costumes, truck, trailer, hay, lights etc. and we are excitedly planning and preparing for "D "day!

The Evangelism Team is ready to step out of our comfort zone and shift our attention not just to our team but to the health and vitality of our congregation. We champion the work of the S.E. Convocation Vision Task Force and the work they shared with us in our parish meeting and we stand in support of this dedicated group as they continue in prayer and diligence to forge answers to the needs of the churches In the SE dioceses'.

We will be talking with you individually, seeking answers as to **what you think we can do** to gain the strength and recognition of ST. John's within the community. We believe, no we know, that the people of our Parrish do not want to see her "fade into the sunset" and we know that we are all willing and capable of going forth into our future together.

So, in that belief and strengthened by Christ, we will be coming to you with our hearts and our minds open and ready to serve.

Your servants' in Christ,
Alice, Bess, Verlyn, Gloria and Mother Sharon

St. John's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

October 17, 2016

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

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from Luke 9:51-62

Treasurer's report was accepted.

Old Business:

Painting in Sunday school downstairs is completed and new flooring and baseboards have been installed.

Painting almost complete in Nursery room in basement.

Gradnview will be donating new counter top for the women's restroom in the basement.

ECW has donated \$500.00 towards the basement rooms restoration.

Windows in Fox Hall have been reglazed.

Mother reported 13 people attended the Blessing of the Animals with 6 dogs.

Mother will be offering a Safe Child

Training on Saturday Nov. 5th at 10 am. Katrina Balke, Laurie Houston, Jolene Main, Martha Stone, and Jupe Allen need to attend.

New sewer line will be replaced from the old basement to the alley.

Martha and Verlyn reported on the Worship leader training they attended in Pittsburg conducted by the Bishop.

Candy reported on the all parish meeting. Low attendance. One person has stepped up to a new lay ministry.

New Business:

Mother's surgery has been rescheduled to Nov. 30th

Thanksgiving Day dinner will be at noon in Fox Hall.

2017 budget will be done at the next vestry meeting.

Christmas dinner will be Wednesday Dec. 14th at 6 pm social time, 6:30 pm dinner.

Approved \$50.00 towards a themed based that will be auctioned at Diocesan Convention to help prevent trafficking of young people.

Joe & Martha will take the church banner to Diocesan Convention.

Assessment:

Sharing time.

Minutes from the September, 2016 meeting were approved.

No reports from the Vicar or Wardens.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: Christmas Eve service at 7:30 pm. Christmas Day said service at 9:30 am. Will see some minor changes when we have Morning Prayer.

Outreach: Packed 6 weeks of Snack-paks for headstart yesterday.

Will bless and pack OCC shoeboxes on November 20th

College Ministry: Average of 15-18 students each week.

Stewardship: Gary Chubb reported letters will be sent for 4 weeks beginning the week of October 9th. All pledges of Time, Talents and Treasurer's will be due by Sunday November 12, 2016.

Evangelism: Plans are coming together for the float in the Christmas parade on Thursday December 1, 2016.

Children's education: Sunday school is being held the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sunday's. Children will decorate the Advent Jesse Tree on Sunday November 27th.

Adult education: Advent study will begin on Monday November 28th at 6 pm on the book: "Not a Silent Night." Please let Mother know if you will be attending so books can be ordered.

Building & Grounds: Need someone to mow the yard.

ECW will be in charge of the Christmas dinner.

Endowment: No report.

Candy reported that \$505.00 has been donated to St. Elizabeth's Altar Guild in memory of Jean Scarborough.

Discussion on articles from ministry teams with a display of teams in Fox Hall.

Next meeting: November 14, 2016

December meeting will be Dec. 19th.

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:

	2015	2016
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 2016.

Verlyn W. Bolinger Jr.
Treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church



Prayer List

Our prayers have been asked for:

Jim, Terry, Teresa, Jim, Sharon, Sammie, Ruth, Kris, Terrell, Mary, Harry, Jolene, Syrus, Gina, Gloria, Jean, 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, Bob, Gene, Helia & family, Raymond, Dale, Edie, Janelle, 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, Dick, and Jerry, 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 Scarborough



November Birthdays

2 Tom Tanner
19 Teresa Downum
27 Joe Stone
29 Anna Bolinger



November Anniversaries:

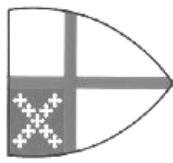
7 John & Heidi Daley
9 Verlyn & Bess Bolinger
18 Joe & Martha Stone

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

NOVEMBER 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 ALL SAINTS' DAY	2	3 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	4 Mother's day off	5
6 The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion 9:30 am	7 Outreach meeting 6:00 pm	8	9	10 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	11 Mother's day off	12
13 The Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am SE Convocation Board 2:30 pm	14 Vestry and budget meeting 5:30 pm	15 Newsletter Deadline	16	17 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	18 Mother's day off	19
20 The Last Sunday after Pentecost HC & Sunday School 9:30 am Bless & pack OCC gifts Community Thanksgiving Service 6pm Westside Christian	21	22	23 Worship & Music meeting 6:00 pm	24 Thanksgiving Dinner - Noon	25 Mother's day off	26
27 The First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion & decorate Advent Jesse Tree by Sunday School Children 9:30 am	28	29	30			

St. John's November 2016 Schedule

	11/6/2016	11/13/2016	11/20/2016	11/27/2016
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	Verlyn Bolinger	Gary Chubb	Candy Scarborough	Joe Stone
Lector	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Alice Miller	Jupe Allen	Daria Condon
Acolytes	Karla Cox, Bess Stone-Boliger, Meisters	Verlyn Bolinger, Tim Downum, Katrina Balke	Karla Cox, Tim Downum, Gary Chubb	Verlyn Bolinger, Bess Stone-Bolinger, Tim Downum
Eucharistic/Pastoral Visitor	Senta Meister	None	Daria Condon	None
Greeters	Bruce Lindemann, David Bamberger	Bob & Carolyn Adams	L.T. & Carrie Tierney	Alice Miller
Coffee Hour	Alice Miller	Gloria Young & Residents	Daria Condon	Candy Scarborough
Counters	Gary Chubb, Martha Stone			
Altar Guild	Daria Condon			