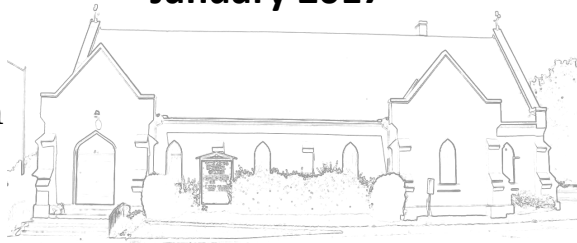


# Good News from St. John's

January 2017

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



620-421-4540  
[www.StJohnsParsons.org](http://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.

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## The Feast of the Holy Name

This year the Feast of the Holy Name falls on Sunday January 1, 2017. The Feast of the Holy Name observing the naming and circumcision of Jesus Christ on the eighth day of his life. It is a time to honor the revelation of Jesus' name by dream to Joseph, and likewise the revelation of the same to Mary by the Archangel Gabriel at the Annunciation.

Under the Law of Moses, all male infants were to be circumcised on the eighth day after birth. It was also customary at this time for family and friends to witness the naming of the child. He was called Jesus.

The designation of the feast in Jesus' Holy Name is new to the 1979 Book of Common Prayer. It was traditionally celebrated as the Feast of the Circumcision. Celebration of the Holy Name reflects the significance of the Holy Name of Jesus, and the emphasis of the Gospel of Luke on the naming of Jesus rather than the circumcision.

The Feast of the Holy Name originated toward the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century, celebrated between New Year's Day and Epiphany. In its older incarnations, the Feast was a celebration of Christ's naming and circumcision, and thus a memoriam of the first shedding of the Lord's blood. In its modern form, it is considered to be the central feast of all the mysteries of Jesus Christ.

Mother Sharon

I would like to thank all of you for the phone calls, visits, and food after I returned home from the hospital. It was all very much appreciated.

Mother Sharon

## Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting will be held on Sunday January 29, 2017 after the service. Please plan to attend and voice your right to vote on vestry members, endowment trustee, and Convocation/convention delegate and alternate. You will also have reports from the ministry teams and a display from some of the ministry teams what they actually do with the hope of getting more parishioners to join in the planning of the mission and ministry of St. John's.

## Season of Christmas "THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

On the **First** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...A Partridge in a Pear Tree.  
The Partridge is Jesus,  
The Pear tree is the cross through which we are saved.

On the **Second** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Two Turtle Doves.  
The two Turtle Doves are in reference to the Old and New Testaments.

On the **Third** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Three French Hens.  
The three French Hens are faith, hope and love. Some people feel they may symbolize the three Wise Men.

On the **Fourth** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Four Calling Birds.  
The four Calling birds are the four Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

On the **Fifth** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Five Golden Rings.  
The Five Golden Rings recall the Torah (law); the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

On the **Sixth** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Six Geese-A-Laying.  
The six Geese-a-laying is in reference to the six days of creation.

On the **Seventh** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Seven swans-a-swimming.  
The seven swans-a-swimming stand for the seven Sacraments;  
The Sacraments are "An outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace"  
Holy Baptism-born into God's family  
Holy Eucharist-central Act of Worship

Confirmation-gift of the Holy Spirit is renewed and the person confirmed and strengthened by God with the laying on of hands

Ordination-Deacons, Priest and Bishops  
Holy Matrimony-lifelong union of husband and wife

Reconciliation-confession and forgiveness to God in the presence of a Priest or Bishop

Holy Unction-special blessing of those who are ill with blessed oil.

On the **Eighth** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Eight maids-a-milking.

The eight maids-a-milking are the Eight Beatitudes;

The Beatitudes are a map of life. They guide, they point, and they teach the values of Christ.

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.

Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

On the **Ninth** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Nine Ladies Dancing.

The Nine ladies are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control.

On the **Tenth** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Ten Lords-a-Leaping.

The Ten-Lords-a-Leaping signify the Ten Commandments.

The first four tell us what our duty is toward God; the last six tell us of our duty toward our neighbors.

Thou shalt have no other gods but me.

Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven image.

Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord God in vain.  
Thou shalt remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy.  
Thou shalt honor thy Father and Mother.  
Thou shalt not kill.  
Thou shalt not commit adultery.  
Thou shalt not steal.  
Thou shalt not bear False Witness.  
Thou shalt not covet.

On the **Eleventh** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Eleven Pipers Piping.

The eleven Pipers piping stand for the eleven faithful Disciples.

Simon Peter, James, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Thaddaeus, Thomas, Matthew Simon, James the brother of John

On the **Twelfth** day of Christmas my true love gave to me...Twelve Drummers Drumming.

The twelve drummers drumming symbolize the 12 Points of belief of the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord,

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From there she shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

I believe in the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting. Amen.

Mother Sharon

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 savor the 12 days of Christmas & the Epiphany season.

### **St. John's Episcopal Church**

#### **Vestry Meeting December 19, 2016**

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

Meeting began with Gospel Based Disciples on John 5:30-47.

Treasurer's report was discussed and approved.

2017 Proposed Budget was approved.

Chuck Root was hired to mow & weed eat the lawn.

Nominating committee reported:

Verlyn Bolinger will seek re-election for a 3 year term.

David Bamberger will seek election for a 3 year term.

Alice Miller will seek election for the 2 year unexpired term of Gloria Young.

Lector workshop will be held Saturday January 21, 2017 from 10am-noon.

We now have 2 child care providers alternating Sunday's.

Discussed the problems with the alarm system. Bids will be sought and reviewed at the January meeting. Will remove the small chairs from the sanctuary and replace with surplus pews cut to fix the area.

Minutes from the November meeting were approved.

Hymns have been selected for January.  
Need to pack snack-paks on Sunday Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Evangelism will be hosting the Epiphany celebration after the service on Friday Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Advent study will be completed on Monday Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>  
Balance in the Endowment Fund as of Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>: \$117,306.86.  
Next meeting January 9, 2017.  
Meeting closed with prayer.  
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, Ellie, 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:



#### January Birthdays

6 Sue Long  
12 Karla Cox  
26 Fran McLarty



#### January Anniversaries:

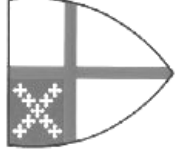
12 Mike & Candy Scarborough  
18 Terry & Lynn Reeves

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



# St. John's Episcopal Church

## JANUARY 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Mother in office 1-5 pm	<b>6</b> Holy Communion & Epiphany Celebration 6:30 pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8 The First Sunday After the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am Pack Snack-paks	<b>9</b> Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	<b>10</b> Outreach meeting 6pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Mother in office 1-5 pm	<b>13</b> Mother's day off	<b>14</b>
<b>15 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	<b>16</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L for LCC 5:30 – 8 pm	<b>20</b> Mother's day off	<b>21</b> Lector Workshop 10am - noon
<b>22 The Third Sunday After the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Worship & Music meeting 6:00 pm	<b>26</b> Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L for LCC 5:30 – 8 pm	<b>27</b> Mother's day off	<b>28</b>
<b>29 The Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany</b> Holy Communion 9:30 am Annual Meeting 11:00 am	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

# St. John's January 2017 schedule

	1/1/2017	Epiphany 1/6/2017	1/8/2017	1/15/2017	1/22/2017
<b>Officiant</b>	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Martha Stone	Joe Stone	Verlyn Bolinger	Gary Chubb	Candy Scarborough
<b>Lector</b>	Alice Miller	Linda Nichols	Jupe Allen	Daria Condon	Bess Stone-Bolinger
<b>Acolytes</b>	Tim Downum & Karla Cox	Verlyn Bolinger, Bess Stone-Bolinger, Alex & Sidni Meister, Katrina Balke	Bess Stone-Bolinger, Tim Downum, Joe Stone	Verlyn Bolinger, Karla Cox	Tim Downum, Katrina Balke
<b>Eucharistic/Pastoral Visitor</b>	Senta Meister	None	None	Daria Condon	None
<b>Greeters</b>	Bruce Lindemann & David Bamberger	Candy Scarborough	L.T. & Carrie Tierney	Candy Scarborough	Daria Condon
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Mother Sharon	Epiphany party after service	Katrina Balke	Alice Miller	L.T. & Carrie Tierney
<b>Counters</b>	Candy Scarborough, Gary Chubb				
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bess Stone-Bolinger				

# St. John's January 2017 schedule

	1/29/2017					
<b>Officiant</b>	Mother Sharon					
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Martha Stone					
<b>Lector</b>	Gloria Young					
<b>Acolytes</b>	Verlyn Bolinger, Karla Cox					
<b>Eucharistic Visitor</b>	None					
<b>Greeters</b>	Alice Miller					
<b>Coffee Hour</b>	Annual Meeting Brunch					
<b>Counters</b>	Candy Scarborough, Gary Chubb					
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Bess Stone-Bolinger					