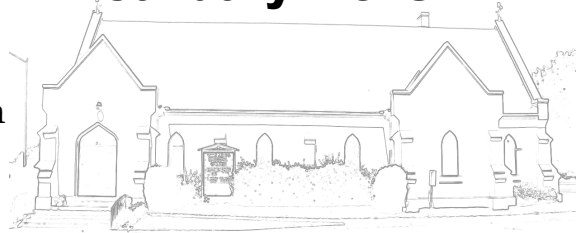


Good News from St. John's

January 2018

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 savor the 12 days of Christmas & the Epiphany season.

Official Notice of the 2018 Annual Meeting
Sunday January 28, 2018 at 11am with brunch
Voting on a change to the parish bylaws: Reduce the size of the Vestry from 7 members to 5 members.
Elect one Vestry member, Endowment trustee, convocation delegate & alternate.
Make every effort to attend this meeting of your parish.

Absent: Martha Stone

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples were waived in favor of an opening prayer to allow time for the budget meeting which proceeded the Vestry meeting.

Treasurer's report:

The budget report was reviewed but the transaction report was not available. Approval was delayed pending review of the transaction report.

Old Business:

The bid to replace the five doors of the church and parish hall is around \$7,300.

A donation of \$5,000 and another of \$500 has prompted approval of scheduling the work.

Additional donations will be sought after the holidays to lessen the financial burden sustained by the church.

An amendment to the by-laws was proposed. The proposal reduces the number serving on the vestry from seven to five. We have struggled in recent years maintaining a full complement of members and rather than have vacant positions, a reduction will keep the vestry at a sustainable level. In 2018 one position will be elected, 2019 will see three elected and in 2020 one member will be elected. All vestry positions are elected for a three year term. The amendment was approved by the vestry and sent to the Council of Trustees for approval. With their approval a final vote will take place at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018.

New Business:

The following Lay Licenses were approved:

Eucharistic Minister- Gary Chubb, Candy Scarborough, Martha Stone and Joe Stone.

Eucharistic Visitor- Daria Condon and Senta Meister

Worship Leader, renewal- Verlyn Bolinger, Bess StoneBolinger, Joe Stone, Martha Stone

The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ

The Epiphany of our Lord is the wonderful liturgical festival observed on January 6th. It is the oldest of the Christmas festivals and originally the most important.

Epiphany Day itself commemorates the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem to worship the Messiah and bring him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Since the earliest days of the church, these wise men have been considered to be representatives of all the peoples of the earth. By means of a miraculous star, God showed them that Jesus was born to be not only the King of the Jews, but the Lord and Savior of all nations.

We will be celebrating Epiphany on Saturday January 6th at 6:30 pm with the Holy Eucharist, an Epiphany cake, wassail and the crowing of our three Kings or Queens. Please bring your favorite finger food to share. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this very moving service and enjoy the celebration following the service.

Mother Sharon

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting

December 18, 2017

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

Worship Leader, new- Daria Condon
A plan to relieve the lack of space in the parking lot west of the church was made. Moving the ties on the east side back to the level of the trees would make it possible to park on both sides of the lot. The plan was approved.

A budget of \$76,719 was approved for the calendar year of 2018. Final approval will be voted on at the Annual Meeting.

A rack in the sacristy is in need of repair. Gary said he can fix it and will do so.

Reports from all ministries are due on January 15 for inclusion in the Annual Report.

Assessment:

Minutes from the November 13 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: No report.

Reports from the Wardens:
Senior: No report.
Junior: No report

Discernment:
Worship & Music: A meeting will be held on Wednesday.

Outreach: Snacks were packed in sufficient quantity to last until after the first of the year.

College Ministry: Broken washers and dryers are hindering serving all of the students in need at Laundry and Latte.

Communications: Martha expressed gratitude to Verlyn and Bess for keeping the web-site and FaceBook current during her absence.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: Thanks offered to Gary for leading a successful Stewardship Campaign.

Evangelism: An Epiphany party is planned for immediately after the 6pm Epiphany service Saturday January 6.

Education: Children- No report
Adult- No report

Building & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: October 31 balance \$120,257.14

ECW: Will begin planning the Annual Meeting brunch.

Next meeting: Monday January 15, 2018.

Meeting closed with a prayer by Mother Sharon.

Jupe Allen, Clerk



Treasurer Report

The following is a brief report on how our 2017 pledges and donations received to date compare with 2016:

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Total of pledges received	17	17
Total pledged (annual)	\$52,900	\$61,717

We are ahead \$1,475.20 in pledge income so please maintain your pledge of support. Thank you again for your generous and persistent support of our great church.

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, James, Ethan, Betts & Umbarger families, Jim, Janie, Michael, Jamie, Jim, William, Becky, Troy, Diane & the Young family, Jackie, Kelly, Nick, Nicky, Kara, Phyllis, Wuanita, Trinity, Shelby, Bruce, Vickie, Raymond, Ellie, Wally, Chris, Ed, Sue & family, Michelle, Jim, Doug,

Betty, Bob, Kip, Michelle, Ron, Pat, Vincent, Bev, Barbara, Jeffrey, Barry, Gabriel, Sandy, Boo, Betty, Jane, Susie, Brittany, John & family, Lisa & family, Bill, Karla, Anna, Cheryl, Addlee, Ken, Mary Ruth, Harriett, Greg, John, Tiffany, Courtney, Vernell, Regina, Tandy, Charlaine, Les, Jake, Christie & family, Chuck Minor family, Jason & Callie, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, President Trump & his family, all college ministries in the Diocese of Kansas, all Southeast Convocation clergy especially Gary, Dick, and David, the Diocese of Kansas Council of Trustees and staff, the Bishop's search and transition committees, those studying for ordination and lay certificates, 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:

Dick Coulter



January Birthdays

6 Sue Long
12 Karla Cox
26 Fran McLarty



January Anniversaries:

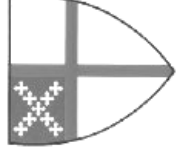
12 Mike & Candy Scarborough
18 Terry & Lynn Reeves

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



St. John's Episcopal Church

JANUARY 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Outreach meeting - 6:00 pm	4 Mother in office 1-5 pm	5 Mother's day off	6 Epiphany Service
7 The First Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	8	9	10	11 Mother in office 3-5 pm	12 Mother's day off	13
14 The Second Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion and Sunday School 9:30 am	15 Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 - 8 pm	19 Mother's day off	20
21 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion 9:30 am Annual reports due	22	23	24 Worship & Music meeting 6:00 pm	25 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 - 8 pm	26 Mother's day off	27
28 The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Holy Communion & Sunday School 9:30 am Annual meeting & brunch 11:00 am	29	30	31			

St. John's January 2018 schedule

	01/06/2018 The Epiphany	01/07/2018	01/14/2018	01/21/2018	01/28/2018
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	Joe Stone	Candy Scarborough	Verlyn Bolinger	Martha Stone	Joe Stone
Lector	Alice Miller	Linda Nichols	Daria Condon	Bess Stone-Bolinger	Jupe Allen
Acolytes	Tim Downum, Verlyn Bolinger, Karia Cox	Verlyn Bolinger, Alex Meister	Tim Downum	Verlyn Bolinger, Sidni Meister	Karia Cox
Eucharistic/Pastoral Visitor	None	Senta Meister	None	Daria Condon	None
Greeters		Bruce Lindemann, David Bamberger	L.T. & Carrie Tierney	Meister Family	Verlyn and Bess Bolinger
Coffee Hour	None			L.T. & Carrie Tierney	ECW Brunch
Counters					
Altar Guild					