

Good News from St. John's

December 2017

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 December 3, 2017. 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 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.

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.

Mother Sharon

What is the Advent Jesse Tree?

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 of 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

"THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS"

The Partridge is Jesus, The Pear tree is the cross through which we are saved.

The two Turtle Doves are in reference to the Old and New Testaments.

The three French Hens are faith, hope and love. Some people feel they may symbolize the three Wise Men.

The four Calling birds are the four Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The Five Golden Rings; the first five books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The six Geese-a-laying is in reference to the six days of creation.

The seven swans-a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

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

The Nine ladies are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control.

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

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

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

The 12 Days of Christmas officially ends on January 6th when the three kings arrive in Bethlehem with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Mother Sharon

St. John's Episcopal Church Vestry Meeting November 13, 2017

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

Absent: Martha Stone

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples included a reading, Matthew 15:1-20

Treasurer's report:

The transaction and budget reports were reviewed.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Pledges received as of this date are 17 pledges for \$67,464.

The budget meeting will be held December 11 at 5:30 immediately before the vestry meeting.

The diocesan appropriation for 2018 is taking a huge increase from \$508 to \$748

monthly. The gain is due to an increase in church income, no major building projects on our part and a change in diocesan accounting practices.

Old Business:

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

Action will be deferred until the new year.

A display featuring St John's Church at the Parsons Museum was considered. No action was taken.

The new prayer box will be blessed Sunday November 19.

The Advent study has been canceled due to scheduling conflicts.

Thanksgiving dinner reservations must be received by November 17.

New Business:

Positions up for election are as follows:

Vestry 3 year terms- Martha Stone-Standing for re-election

Gary Chubb- Not seeking re-election

Vestry 2 year term- Open

Endowment Board- Tommey McLarty-Standing for re-election

Convocation Delegate- Candy Scarborough-Standing for re-election

Convocation Alternate- Open

Elections will be held in January at the Annual Meeting.

Action will be initiated to reduce the number of vestry members from 7 to 5.

Thank you notes received from April Obanion and Callie Carpenter for the Steve Stocker funeral, from PALS for donations and from LAC for donation of 21 items.

Ava and Zoe will be baptized on November 26.

The Christmas dinner will be held December 13.

Social at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30.

Lessons in Music, a Christmas celebration, held at Epiphany Church in Chanute would like for Becky to play for the service. She will charge \$100. St John's will pay up to \$25 to help with the cost. The organ tuner will be coming November 29 at 8:00 am.

Assessment:

Minutes from the October 9 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: Classes for the December 2

Confirmation have been completed. 4

young people and 7 adults are now eligible. No new confirmations from St. John's.

Reports from the Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: No report

Discernment:

Worship & Music: One Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:30. No service on Christmas Day. The

Community Thanksgiving Service will be

held at St John's on Sunday November 19 at 6 pm.

Outreach: 27 boxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child.

College Ministry: Laundry and Latte had 18 and 12 students the last two weeks.

Communications: No report.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: The just concluded Stewardship campaign was very successful.

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

Education: Children- No report

Adult- No report

Building & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: October 31 balance \$118,923.09

ECW: Planning for the Confirmation on December 2 and Christmas dinner on December 13.

Next meeting: Monday December 11, 2017.

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

15 Gloria Young

We are \$1,475 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, 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, Dick, Mary Ruth, Harriett, Greg, John, Tiffany, Courtney, Vernell, Regina, Tandy, Charlaine, Les, 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:



December Birthdays

7 Elsa Stone
11 Lynn Reeves



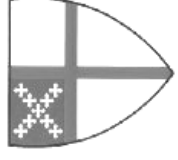
December Anniversaries:

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 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Mother's day off	2 Regional Confirmation Service 10:30am Decorate church for Advent 1 pm
3 The First Sunday of Advent Holy Communion & Sunday School 9:30am SE Convocation Bd Mtg Independence 2:30 pm Lessons & Music Inden 4pm	4	5	6	7 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	8 Mother's day off	9
10 The Second Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 9:30 am	11 Vestry dinner meeting 5:30 pm	12	13 Parish Christmas Dinner 6:00 pm social 6:30 pm dinner	14 Mother in office 1-5 pm L&L 5:30 – 8 pm	15 Mother's day off Newsletter Deadline	16
17 The Third Sunday of Advent Holy Communion & Sunday School 9:30 am	18	19	20 Worship & Music meeting 6:00 pm	21 Mother in office 1-5 pm	22 Mother's day off	23
24 The Fourth Sunday of Advent Holy Communion 9:30 am Christmas Eve Service 7:30pm	25 The Nativity Of Our Lord Jesus Christ	26	27	28 Mother in office 1-5 pm	29 Mother's day off	30
31 The Fifth Sunday of Advent – HC & Sunday						

St. John's December 2017 schedule

	12/3/2017	12/10/2017	12/17/2017	Morning Service 12/24/2017	Christmas Eve 12/24/2017
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	Martha Stone	Gary Chubb	Joe Stone	Verlyn Bolinger	Candy Scarborough
Lector	Bess Stone- Bolinger	Alice Miller	Linda Nichols	Daria Condon	Jupe Allen
Acolytes	Tim Downum	Verlyn Bolinger, Alex Meister	Karla Cox	Karla Cox, Sidni Meister	Karla Cox, Tim Downum Meisters, Bess & Verlyn Bolinger, Joe Stone
Eucharistic/ Pastoral Visitor	None	Senta Meister	Daria Condon	None	None
Greeters	Bruce Lindemann & David Bamberger	Jim & Linda Nichols	Candy Scarborough	Need Volunteers	Need Volunteers
Coffee Hour	Tom & Wuanita Tanner	Jim & Linda Nichols	Alice Miller	Verlyn & Bess Bolinger	None
Counters					
Altar Guild	Candy Scarborough				

St. John's December 2017 schedule

	12/31/2017					
Officiant	Mother Sharon					
Eucharistic Minister	Martha Stone					
Lector	Bess Stone-Bolinger					
Acolytes	Tim Downum					
Eucharistic/Pastoral Visitor	None					
Greeters	Bruce Lindemann					
Coffee Hour	Tommey & Fran McLarty					
Counters						
Altar Guild	Candy Scarborough					