

Good News from St. John's

December 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 SEASON OF ADVENT

The season of Advent begins this year on Sunday December 2, 2018. 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, Thaddeus, 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

The Story of the Candy Cane

In the 18th Century, somewhere in Europe, any public display of Christianity was forbidden. No crosses or Bibles were allowed and the Christians were greatly oppressed.

One old man, a candy maker by profession, was particularly distressed by this. He loved the Lord with all his heart and couldn't stand not to share that love with the world.

His heart especially went out to the children when Christmas drew near and no one was allowed to have a nativity scene on display in their homes.

He prayed to God to show him some way to make Christmas gifts for the children which would teach them the story of Christ.

The answer was the candy cane. The candy cane is in the shape of a shepherd's staff to show us Jesus is our Shepherd and we are his flock.

Upside down the candy cane is a "J", the first letter in Jesus' name. It is made of hard candy to remind us that Christ is the rock of our salvation.

The wide red stripe on the candy cane represents the blood He shed on the cross for each of us so that we can have eternal life through Him.

The white stripes represent the virgin birth, sinless life and purity of our Lord.

The three narrow stripes symbolize that by His stripes, or wounds, we are healed and the Trinity-the Father, son (Jesus) and Holy Spirit.

When we break our candy cane, it reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us.

When we have communion it is a reminder of what He did for us.

When we share candy canes with others, we share it with love; the same love of Jesus because He is to be shared with one another in love.

Mother Sharon

St. John's Episcopal Church

Vestry Meeting

October 8, 2018

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

Development:

Gospel Based Disciples included a reading from Luke 6:39-49.

Treasurer's report:

The transaction report and the budget were reviewed and the treasurer's report was approved.

Old Business:

The Cardinal Crawl resulted in lots of interaction with the students. Goodie bags and cards promoting Laundry and Latte were distributed. Tom Tanner has agreed to assume the task of changing the information on the sign that faces 18th Street.

Blessing of the Animals was held on October 7. The First Presbyterian and Wesley Methodist Churches also participated. Nineteen dogs and one rooster were present to be blessed.

New Business:

Church Publishing Co sent Lectionary inserts to add to the weekly bulletin during Advent. This is a trial offering. Inserts are available for the rest of the year for a fee.

Verlyn and Bess are donating a food freezer to the church. It will be kept in the basement.

Assessment:

Minutes from the September 10, 2018 meeting were approved.

Vicar's Report: No report.

Reports from the Wardens:

Senior: No report.

Junior: No report.

Discernment:

Worship & Music: No report.

Outreach: The red tub has been placed in the narthex to accumulate items to be packed into boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Snack packs will need to be packed Sunday September 16.

College Ministry: The lack of operational washers and dryers is putting the Laundry and Latte program in jeopardy.

Communications: No report.

Stewardship/Planned Giving: No report.

Evangelism: Gave out Wholy water as well as coloring books and crayons at the Art Walk.

Education:

Children: No report.

Adult: No report.

Buildings & Grounds: No report.

Endowment: No report.

ECW: Starting to make plans for

Thanksgiving Dinner which will be hosted by the Bollinger's.

Christmas dinner will be held on Wednesday the 19th with a social at 6:00 and dinner at 6:30.

Next meeting: November 11, 2018.

A prayer by Mother Sharon. concluded the meeting

Jupe Allen, Clerk



Treasurer Report

The following is a brief report on how our 2018 pledges and donations received to date compare with 2016:

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Total of pledges received	17	17
Total pledged (annual)	\$61,717.00	\$67,464.00

We are behind \$948.00 in pledge income so please maintain your pledge of support. Thank you again for your generous and persistent support of our great church. Thank you for all who have pledged for 2018.

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



Prayer List

Terry, Teresa, Jim, Ruth, Kris, Terrell, Mary, Harry, Gina, Gloria, Ethan, the Betts & Umbarger families, Jim, Janie, William, Becky, Troy, Jackie, Kelly, Nick, Nicky, Kara, Phyllis, Wuanita, Raymond, Wally, Ed, Sue & family, Jim, Bob, Kip, Vincent, Jeffrey, Barry, Sandy, Boo, Betty, Jane, Brittany, John & family, Lisa and family, Addlee, Regina, Randy, Chuck Minor family, Becky, Doug, Louise, Gale, Evelyn, Gale, David, Debbie, Pat, Valerie, Janice, Kent, Barb, Sharon & Kent, Dwayne, Ava, Zoe, Bretton, Larry & Barbara, grandson, Brian, churches in the Southeast Convocation in their call to mission, all clergy in the Southeast Convocation especially Gary, Dick, and David, the Bishop's Transition committee, Bishop elect Kathleen, BKSM students, the men & women serving our country here and abroad and those who have served, and those persecuted for their faith in the Sudan.



December Birthdays

- 7 Elsa Stone
- 11 Lynn Reeves
- 15 Gloria Young
- 27 Phyllis Middleton



December Anniversaries:

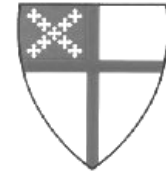
- 31 Sue and Clay Long

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 2018



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

St. John's December 2018 schedule

	12/2/2018	12/9/2018	12/16/2018	12/23/2018	Christmas Eve 12/24/2018
Officiant	Mother Sharon	Bishop Milliken	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon	Mother Sharon
Eucharistic Minister	Joe Stone	Martha Stone	Candy Scarborough	Verlyn Bolinger	Joe Stone
Lector	Jupe Allen	Gloria Young	Linda Nichols	Daria Condon	Alice Miller
Acolytes	Alex, Verlyn, Elsa , Ava	Karla	Tim, Verlyn	Karla	Everyone
Eucharistic/ Pastoral Visitor	None	Senta Meister	Daria Condon	None	None
Sunday School	Jolene Main	Bess Stone- Bolinger	Bess Stone- Bolinger		None
Greeters	David Bamburger & Bruce Lindemnn	LT & Carrie Tierney	Jim & Linda Nichols	Candy Scarborough	TBA
Coffee Hour	Tom & Juanita Tanner	LT & Carrie Tierney, Ava & Zoe	Jim & Linda Nichols	TBA	None
Counters	Vestry				
Altar Guild	Daria Condon				

St. John's December 2017 Schedule

	12/30/2018 Morning Prayer				
Officiant	Bess Stone-Bolinger				
Eucharistic Minister	None				
Lector	Jupe Allen				
Acolytes	Tim				
Eucharistic/ Pastoral Visitor	None				
Greeters	Alice Miller				
Coffee Hour	Candy Scarborough				
Counters	Vestry				
Altar Guild	Daria Condon				