



Volume 28, Issue 9  
December 2016

St. John's Episcopal Church

# DECEMBER EPISTLE

## From The Interim Rector



*"You must be men and women of ceaseless hope, because only tomorrow can today's human and Christian promise be realized; and every tomorrow will have its own tomorrow, world without end. Every human act, every Christian act, is an act of hope. But that means you must be men and women of the present, you must live this moment—really live it, not just endure it—because this very moment, for all its imperfection and frustration, because of its imperfection and frustration, is pregnant with all sorts of possibilities, is pregnant with the future, is pregnant with love, is pregnant with Christ."*

~ Walter J. Burghardt, from  
*Sir, We Would Like to See Jesus*

I love this image: that *this very moment* is pregnant—with possibility, with the future, with love, hope, Christ. It is an image particularly fitting for Advent as we practice "awaiting" the coming of Christ, but I certainly felt that back in September when I joined you at St. John's as your Interim Rector. I sense you feel this "pregnancy of the moment," too, as you move through a transition in pastoral leadership and begin to explore new purpose and direction for St. John's.

Big changes like this are disruptive and somewhat uncomfortable; and they often bring up some level of anxiety, grief, and impatience. Maybe it helps to recognize that discomfort is a normal part of biological pregnancy, too: "Ugh, my aching back!", "What if I'm a terrible mother?" and "Once this child is born—will I ever sleep again?" Yet, as long as baby and mom are relatively healthy, the overriding emotions around a biological pregnancy are hope, joy and excitement.

St. John's is a wonderful community. There is no reason why the minor discomforts of change, anxiety or grief should overwhelm you as you move through this season of transition. I urge you not to look at this time as something that must be "gotten through" as quickly as possible, but to embrace it as a moment of possibility and hope during which you can clarify the kind of presence you sense God calling you to be, and what sort of difference God calls you to make, in and around Wake Forest in the days ahead.

A blessed Advent to you all, and a Holy Christmas!

This comes with Love,  
Mo. Sarah+

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### December Services

Dec. 4: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist

Dec. 11: 10am Holy Eucharist

Dec. 18: 10am Choir Cantata, Holy Eucharist

### St. John's Christmas Celebrations

Dec. 24: 4pm Children's Pageant and  
10:30pm Holy Eucharist

Dec. 25: 10am Quiet Communion

# Senior Warden's Corner

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Greetings.... Wow, how did we get to December so fast? For starters, I want to thank everyone who participated in the "Thanks for Giving" Brunch embracing "God's Work with Our Hands"—together we can! It was a lively and engaging discussion, and you made it happen. Thanks, also, for all of you who have turned in your EOG (Estimate of Giving) cards. If you haven't, please do. Our Vestry members will be calling out of love, concern and compassion. I want to thank Mother Sarah and her leadership in assisting and guiding us in this year's stewardship campaign.

As I reflect on my role as Senior Warden in this past year—it has been exciting, fast paced, rewarding, challenging, and spiritually centering. I wouldn't have traded this experience for anything in this world. St. John's is truly in a rich place, getting ready to embark on a journey going deeper into our faith, our Journey in Christ, and into the community. We still have a lot of work to do.

We will have our Annual Meeting on December 11. We will have a St. John's Annual Report with ministry reports and a budget report. We will also hold vestry elec-

tions this year with seven candidates to vote on. We will have a new vestry and new Senior Warden, showing the strength of St. John's. And then the Holy Season of Christmas will be upon us.

So many exciting things happening and many more to come in 2017. The Search Committee is getting ready to gear up to begin work starting with the parish profile after the town hall meetings. I can't wait to see what the Lord has in store for St. John's this next year. In the meantime, I want to thank each of you for your love, support and faith this past year. It has been a wonderful experience, and it is all because of you and the power of the Holy Spirit. So, my thanks to you and the church staff who have truly supported me this past year.

And last, but not least, I wish each of you and your family a Blessed and Merry Christmas! These are exciting times at St. John's Episcopal Church, with God's Work; with our Hands, together we can—in 2017.

Faithfully yours,  
Ken Marsh

## EYC

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EYC is putting our lessons on evangelism into practice this season. We canvassed the town at the end of November committing random acts of kindness and letting people in our community know about St. John's. This month we will pack more than 200 bags to send home to children through Backpack Buddies, and we have made care bags for those in need that we can store in our cars and hand to folks who may be looking for a donation in our travels. We will also be participating in the Wake Forest Christmas Parade with St. John's first ever float!

If you are in grade 5 through 12 and would like to join us for lessons, fellowship and outreach projects please consider the following activities!

- \* **December 8:** Backpack Buddies packing at Rolesville Baptist Church at 6pm. Bring a friend—all St. John's members are welcome.

- \* **December 9:** Pizza and Parade Float Prep from 5-7 at St. John's
- \* **December 10:** Wake Forest Christmas Parade has a separate sign up genius because we are sharing it with Preschool families! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844aaa6292-wake>
- \* **Christmas Pageant:** The Christmas Pageant is almost here, and we hope two to four EYC members will once again volunteer to read at the 4pm service on Christmas Eve. If you are interested, please let me know so I can forward you the script and we can decide on what part you would like.

For more details, use our Sign Up Genius for EYC events: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0844aaa6292-eycfall1>

Joy Shillingsburg  
Youth Director



## Visitor's Table

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We continue to welcome newcomers to St. John's. Each Sunday a volunteer sets a table in the narthex for us to welcome guests, and record their name /address. Then they receive a call from Mother Sarah and a letter of welcome in the hope we're inviting new members into our family. This is a most personal outreach as we extend our hands to bring new people into our community.

We also welcome new volunteers to serve in this ministry of welcome. There is a sign-up sheet located on the bulletin board outside of the parish office. If you have any questions about this ministry of welcome contact Alice Jordan at 919-373-0409.

## Flower Guild

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All members of the Flower Guild will meet on Friday, December 23, at 10am to decorate the church for the Christmas Eve service. Please bring your own clippers

and any greenery you have available. Louise Howard is ordering poinsettias, and parishioners may dedicate a poinsettia to a loved one by making a donation.

## Tri-Area Ministries

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Did you ever wonder why there is a little red wagon in the narthex? And did you wonder what happens to the groceries in the wagon? Members of St. John's contribute staple food items to TAM each week. When TAM has a need for specific items, our parish

announcements will list them particularly. These food items are taken by our volunteers to the building on East Holding Street from where TAM distributes bags of groceries to families confirmed to be in need.

*Dewey Jordan*

## Habitat for Humanity

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It is time to begin planning for our "fun time" constructing our next Habitat House in Wake Forest. Kenille and I want our next venture to be really OVER THE TOP.

A part of that hope involves you directly! We need you to volunteer to help with the building work. There are jobs for everyone. If you like heights, you can nail rafters. Given my knees, I have become a "floor guy."

So we can accommodate the highest number of volunteers, we are asking that you let us know which weekend you could work. Now that's planning ahead!!!!

April 21 and/or 22

April 28 and/or 29

David: [dhbland9@gmail.com](mailto:dhbland9@gmail.com)

Kenille: [kennip@earthlink.net](mailto:kennip@earthlink.net)

# Preschool News

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The preschool will hold their Holiday Book Fair on December 5-9 from 9:15am-12:45pm and then on Sundays after church. We will also have a "Family Night" on December 6 where you can come in the evening to shop and get into the holiday spirit. This is a great way to purchase some holiday gifts while supporting the preschool.

We have openings in the Playgroup (ages 12 months-24 months) and the 4 day, 4 year-olds class. For more information about the preschool or if you would like a tour, please call Tracy Painter at (919) 562-8619 or email us at [preschool@stjohnswf.com](mailto:preschool@stjohnswf.com). Thank you for your continued support to the preschool!

The preschool will be closed from December 19-January 1 for the Christmas and New Year break. Classes resume on January 2.

Thanks to everyone that helped to make our sixth Annual Bike-A-Thon and Bake Sale another success! We were able to raise \$850 to go towards the Emily Noel Hill Scholarship Fund.



# Preschool Registration for 2017-2018 School Year

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Priority Registration (current students, children of church members, siblings of current students) will be **January 17-20, 2016** in the Library of the Education building, Rm 230 from 9:15am-12:30pm. Priority registration ends at 12:30pm on January 20.

We will have an **Open House** for prospective families on **January 10 at 10am** in the Education building. Please call the preschool at (919) 562-8619 to reserve a spot. A tour of the school will be offered, as well as information about the preschool. Paperwork will be handed out as well.



# Diocese of NC—Annual Convention, Nov. 2016

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## Reflections from St. John's Lay Delegation

Four delegates and two alternates were elected at St. John's Annual Parish Meeting in 2015 to represent the parish at the Annual Diocesan Convention in 2016. Those delegates are: Al Hinton, Kitty Kovacs, Ken Marsh, and Joe Paulonis; David Bland and Carol Paulonis were elected as alternates. Al Hinton and Ken Marsh were unable to attend Convention this year, so David and Carol served in their stead. These same delegates also are elected to represent St. John's at the Electing Convention for a new Diocesan Bishop which will be held in March, 2017.

If you were in worship on Sunday, November 20, you heard that St. John's Creation Care Committee was given an award at Convention for its innovative work in environmental stewardship! Congratulations to all who have a hand in that work here at St. John's, and blessings on your continued witness! Following are brief reflections from our delegates on other highlights that stood out to them from Diocesan Convention this year:

**From David Bland:** *This was my first NC Diocesan Convention and was it ever powerful, but I must say that my take away was three things: 1) We all know that our young people are the future of Christ's work in this world. We'll be thankful we are in good hands. 2) Our Diocese is still strong in stating Jesus' love and compassion: we supported the Sioux Indians' witness and commitment regarding their pipeline protest. 3) We forcefully spoke out against the use of torture by the United States and any involvement by North Carolina as a transportation point.*

**From Kitty Kovacs:** *The 201st Annual Diocesan Convention was held in Raleigh this year with the theme of Equipping the Saints. Explaining the honor of representing St. John's there is difficult and begins with a "wow." A lot of work was completed and so much more is out there. The delegates elected clergy and lay people to positions that support our Diocesan work for 2017. We affirmed a stable fair share portion for 2018 at 11%. The resolutions cleaned up some missing canons in support of mission churches and their ability to manage things such as vestry membership. There was a great discussion about the Dakota pipeline with a resolution to support the dignity of all people and respect for their homelands. Another late*

*resolution addressed the Diocesan stand against any use of torture by the government.*

*The most exciting part of the convention was a panel of youth who shared their stories of saying "Yes" to God's work. They were inspirational, and shared amazing stories as they make a difference in their communities with unique outreach. Many were inspired by a trip to South Africa where those lucky saints met with Bishop Desmond Tutu! So jealous! The common theme from the youth was that someone expressed faith in them that they should go deeper in their faith journey. They are leaders for the rest of us.*

*We had four ghosts of Bishops past which were fun and enlightening about our Diocesan history. You can find more if you search NC Diocesan Bishops—very interesting reading about Bishops Fraser, Atkinson, Ravenscroft and more. It was an inspirational meeting which will hopefully lead St. John's to further growth and outreach to others.*

**From Carol Weaver Paulonis:** *Throughout the events, the focus on the under-represented in America, and the various kinds of support the Episcopal Church in our diocese tries to give, impresses one greatly. From the beginning theme of "Equipping the Saints and Lifting Every Voice in the Turbulent 1960's" to committee hearings on youth vote, condemning the use of torture, supporting Native American resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline, and other resolutions respecting "the dignity of every human being," our church shows strength in helping others.*

*The programs featuring young peoples' involvement in God's work through the Church took my breath away. We can be proud of the efforts of our diocese to follow Christ's guidelines for the way to live.*

*(Sidelight: Over a dozen years ago, I attended Virginia diocesan conventions, called councils, and was awed to the core at the booming volume of male voices as we sang the hymns together. Did VA have better singers than NC does today? I think not: in just 12-13 years times have changed, and these conventions have an abundance of women, with their lighter voices, in clergy and delegate roles. Way to go, NC Diocese—and hopefully elsewhere!)*

**From Joe Paulonis:** *Various congregations of the diocese are involved in "Going to Galilee" on a one-on-one basis, promoting outreach to the disenfranchised. What encouraged me the most in this was the involvement of the youth in this endeavor.*

# In Our Prayers



## Parishioners, Friends and their Families:

Jase Brown	Ariel Garner	Ann Marie Bateson	Bob Stoklas
Virginia Olsen	Karl & Ellie Wolf	Jerry Meiselman	John Blake
Milly Nelligar	Ron Demanovich	Sheila Macpherson	Katharine Ferguson
Dewey Jordan	Kristen Beedenbender	Louis Mullinger	

## Our Men and Women in the Armed Services:



Dylan Cate	Bryan Cooke	Tom Moore
John Cooke	Chris Jones	Kyle Weinel
Michele Cooke	Charles Kelley	

## December Birthdays

2 Al Hinton	13 Lindsey Manfreda Ken Marsh	20 James Cooke IV Daniel Rippel	24 Louis Arthur
3 Claire Velthuisen	15 Shirley McHose	21 Sean Hanlon	25 Sarah Phelps
4 Holly Hunt Sloan Walkup	17 Ethan Chapman	23 Pinky Cooke Mallory Houston Louis Lessard	29 Afton Dodd Mike Phelps
7 Tammy Warriner	18 Joyce McPherson		30 Brendan Bethea
8 Brandie Dodd	19 Dave McPherson Joe Powell		31 Elise Archer
12 Wayne Tull			



# December 2016 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 8am Holy Eucharist 10am Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School Pageant Practice 11am Hot Dog Sunday (PH)	5	6	7 10am Alzheimer's Support Group Meeting (PH) 7pm Adult Choir (S)	8 6pm Backpack Buddies at Rolesville Baptist Church 7pm Wake Forest Survivors of Suicide Mtg (PH)	9 Flower Cart (PH) 6:30pm Save the Teens Grief Group (PH)	10 Wake Forest Christmas Parade – come see St. John's float! 10am Adult Choir Cantata at The Lodge
11 10am Holy Eucharist & Annual Meeting 10am Sunday School Pageant Practice (Only one service today)	12	13	14 11:45 Holy Eucharist 7pm Adult Choir (S)	15	16 Flower Cart (PH) 6:30pm Save the Teens Grief Group (PH)	17 10am Sophia Sisters (PH)
18 10am Choir Cantata & Holy Eucharist 10am Sunday School Pageant Practice (Only one service today)	19	20	21 11:45 Holy Eucharist 7pm Adult Choir (S)	22	23 Flower Cart (PH)	24 4pm Christmas Pageant 10:30pm Christmas Eve & Holy Eucharist
25 10am Quiet Communion (Only one service today)	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30 Flower Cart (PH) OFFICE CLOSED	31

Office Hours: 8:00am - Noon Monday-Thursday PH=Parish Hall, S=Sanctuary, E=Educ. Bldg., PS=Preschool, EYC=Educ. Building

# December 2016 Ministry Assignments

Calendar	Acolytes	Readers	Chalice	Greeters	Ushers	Flower Guild	Altar Guild	Lessons	Sermon
December 4	8:00	Emily Graney	Tom Baker		Jean Leppke	Melanie Murphy	Carole Friedman, Bonnie & Bill LaBarbera	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Sarah Phelps
	10:00	Sheryl Friedrichs Maggie Shalar Mark Goodwin	Kenille Baumgardner Bill LaBarbera	Dorie Allen Joe Paulonis	Durbin Goodwin John Rich				
December 11	10:00	Spencer Renfrow Kitty Kovacs Laura Santos	Peter Thibodeau Kelly Osborne	Vivian Jones Arlene McCullough	Michael McDuffie Bob Nelligar	Dagmar Derrick	Kenille Baumgardner, Karen Demovich, Mynn Paige	Isaiah 35:1-10 Canticle 15 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Sarah Phelps
	10:00	Henry Allen Al Hinton Barbara Kwiatek	Harold Davis Joe Paulonis	Dorie Allen David Bland	Al Hinton Barbara Kwiatek	Dagmar Derrick	Melanie Murphy, Maggie Shalar	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 Romans 1:107 Matthew 1:18-25	No Sermon
December 24	4:00	Ethan Chapman Graham Campbell Jack Bell	Elizabeth McDuffie Joe Paulonis		TBA TBA TBA TBA	Flower Guild	Carole Friedman, Volunteers	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-20	Sarah Phelps
	10:30	Jack Kessler Taylor Roberts Read Kessler Jack Presson Chandler Presson Matthew Presson	John Rich Donna King Mark Goodwin	Tom Baker Emily Graney	Barbara Kwiatek TBA				
December 25	10:00	Katherine Ferguson	Katharine Ferguson		TBA	Flower Guild	Volunteers	Isaiah 52:7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14	Sarah Phelps
	10:00	Abby Telenko Mary Thibodeau Ethan Chapman	Harold Davis Joe Paulonis	Vivian Jones David Bland	Spencer Renfrow Durbin Goodwin	Flower Guild	Sharon Davenport, Sandra Rhodes	Genesis 3:1-15 Isaiah 7:10-15 Isaiah 35:1-10 Luke 2:1-20 John 1:1-18	Midwootten



# ST. JOHN'S

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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*Please consider helping us conserve our resources.*

*Contact the church office to receive the Epistle electronically.*



This award recognizes the Creation Care Committee for bringing care for God's creation to the forefront of St. John's parish life.

THE CHARTERED COMMITTEE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY  
OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
at the 201<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Diocese  
awards this certificate of recognition to

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
WAKE FOREST, NC

For moving Creation Care to a central place in their spiritual lives by establishing the St. John's Creation Care Committee, exploring energy efficiency measures on their campus, promoting renewable energy in the greater community, and working diligently on creating bird- and pollinator-friendly natural areas and teaching gardens,

So that we may better understand our proper role in God's Creation and may more adequately achieve environmental sustainability as individuals, faith communities, and citizens of the world.

Presented on this 19<sup>th</sup> Day of November,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bruce Hunn and Carl Sigel  
Chartered Committee for Environmental Ministry