



MESSENGER

A Newsletter of St. John's Episcopal Church, December 2010

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Return Service Requested

Open your eyes, this is what Advent is all about

By Rev. Fletcher Montgomery

Dear Friends at St. John's,

Our God comes to us in many different ways. Sometimes it's expected and familiar, and sometimes we are surprised when we recognize God in quite an unexpected place or context! When one of those surprises happens Sarah and I sometimes look at one another and smile, and say, "Now this is a 'God thing!'"

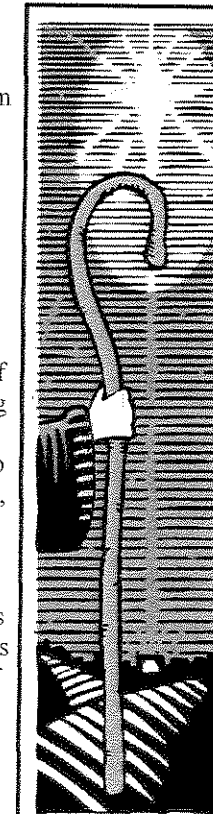
That God comes to us at all – that he doesn't require us to wander in search of him, but that he searches for us, is an amazing thing. Advent is the time of year we focus our spiritual attention on God's coming to us in three particular ways. First, bombarded as we are by secular commercialism, we all know that our attempt to keep a spiritual Advent is inevitably intertwined with and maybe even intercepted by the world's concept of Christmas. That's not an entirely bad thing. In a very real way Advent really does have a whole lot to do with Christmas – the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. We think back upon the prophecies of ancient Israel, and upon the anticipation Jesus' mother Mary must have felt in the days and weeks leading up to his birth. And we prepare our own hearts to receive him anew on this marvelous celebration of God's human nativity.



A second, just slightly less obvious focus for us in Advent is Christ's Second Coming. This makes most of us scratch our heads, if we're honest. Think about it: we don't know when it will be; we don't know much what it will be like – though certain scripture passages certainly don't describe it as a walk in the park...earthquakes, famines, wars, judgment – I mean, who looks forward to that? But intertwined with the mystery and the accompanying hardships are the promises of seeing our Lord face to face, seeing him "in his power and great glory," and knowing beyond the shadow of a doubt that this is the salvation we have awaited and prayed about all our lives. One verse tells us to stand up and raise our heads because our redemption is drawing near. I can look forward to that!

And a third focus for us in this holy season of joyful anticipation is our looking for and recognizing the face and the voice of Christ in those surprising and unexpected places and contexts. Maybe that's in the innocent but profound statement of a child; or in an exchange with a friend; or certainly in something we read in scripture that hits us in a very modern and relevant way. This focus is a daily endeavor, of course, and not limited to Advent. But for the next few weeks we are attuned and listening, we are watching and waiting, we are hoping and excited deep within.

Christ's birth, Christ's Second Coming, and those every day encounters we all have with Christ if we'll just open our eyes to them...this is what Advent is about. I call us all in these weeks ahead to come together as a parish community for the worship of Almighty God, fellowship with one another in the Body of Christ, service to those in need around us, and prayerful anticipation of our Lord's coming to us.



St. John's December Worship Schedule

- Friday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve**
4:00 pm
Children's Christmas Program
4:30 pm
Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II
10:00 pm
Prelude of Christmas Carols and Anthems
10:30 pm
Festival Holy Eucharist, Rite II
- Saturday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day**
10:30am
Holy Eucharist, Rite I
- Sunday, Dec. 26**
First Sunday after Christmas
10:30 am
Christmas Lessons and Carols with
Holy Communion
- Sunday, Jan. 2**
Second Sunday after Christmas
Return to Regular Sunday schedule

PARISH CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. J. Fletcher Montgomery
Rector
jfm@stjohnscolumbia.org

Dorian Del Priore
Director of Youth Ministries
mdd@stjohnscolumbia.org

Celia Tolar-Bane
Director of Music
ctb@stjohnscolumbia.org

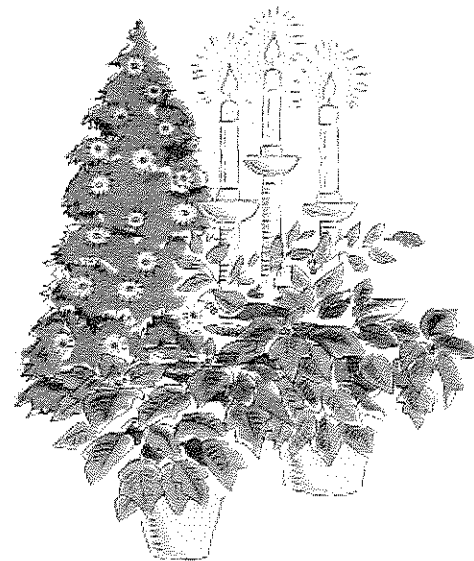
Mary Jo Pendarvis
Director of Children's Ministries
mjp@stjohnscolumbia.org

Michelle James
Director of Parish Operations
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Tony Taylor
Maintenance Supervisor
de@stjohnscolumbia.org

Matt Owens
Kitchen Manager
mmo@stjohnscolumbia.org



VESTRY

- Dana Turner, Senior Warden
- Jason Lockhart, Junior Warden
- Jason Adams, Jeff Brooker,
- Michael Burkett, Ann Gregg,
- Katie Gibson, Jamie LaBorde,
- Steve McMillan, Ann Ruderman, Katherine
- Templeton, Bill Todd, Faxie Watt, Georgianna
- Wheeler, Eddie Williams.

How do you proclaim Christ?

By *Dorian Del Priore*
Grace and peace, my friends!

Advent. Christmas. I love this time of year. I love it because of the hope and joy that comes with celebrating the birth of our risen Lord and Savior. We have been attempting to explore the concept of story in different ways in our youth programs, and the season of Advent offers us some very unique opportunities.

December 19th is our EYC Advent/Christmas Party. I hope as many youth as possible can be there. We are going to do something radically new and different for us. Every youth who attends will receive a gift. We will then explore how that gift can grow into a blessing for others. Be ready to be creative. Be ready to challenge yourself and your faith. Be ready to create a really cool story. See you there!

ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Last year, in this space, I introduced you to a movement called the Advent Conspiracy. It is an ecumenical movement that calls us to proclaim Christ in how we celebrate Christmas.

WORSHIP FULLY

It starts with Jesus. It ends with Jesus. This is the holistic approach God had in mind for Christmas. It's a season where we are called to put down our burdens and lift a song up to our God. It's a season where love wins, peace reigns, and a king is celebrated with each breath.

SPEND LESS

Honestly, I'm not Scrooge, and really, I do like gifts. But consider this: America spends an average of \$450 Billion a year every Christmas. How often have we spent money on Christmas presents for no other reason than obligation? (I know I have) How many times have you received a gift out of that same obligation? Let's do something different. Think about buying ONE LESS GIFT this Christmas. Just one. Sounds insignificant, but it can open up new possibilities.

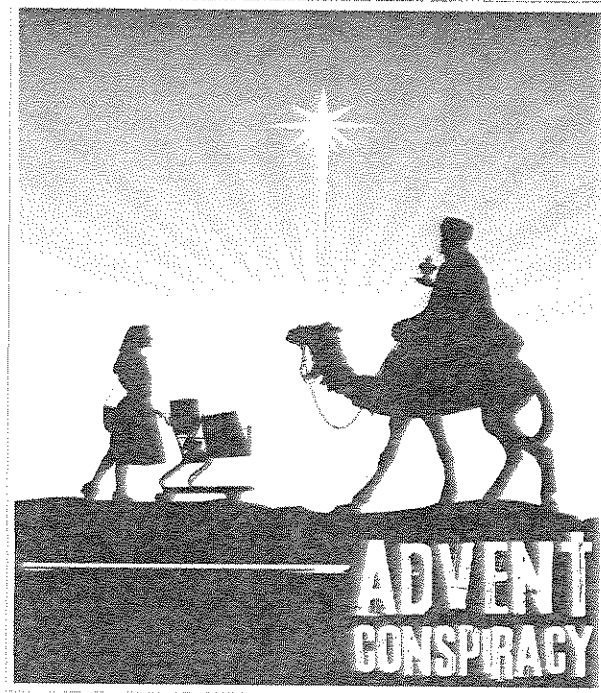
GIVE MORE

God's gift to us was a relationship built on love. So it is natural that during Christmas we have a natural desire to be with family and friends. Time is our most valuable resource during Christmas, and it is a true gift. Take time to write a letter. Invite an old friend out for coffee. Give time at your favorite charity. Take time to make love visible through relational giving. Instead of giving presents...give presence.

LOVE ALL

When Jesus loved, He loved in ways never imagined. Though rich, he became poor to love the poor, the forgotten, the overlooked and the sick. Be spending less at Christmas we have the opportunity to join Him in giving resources to those who need help the most. Whether it is contributing to the Haiti Bread and Water Campaign, Harvest Hope, Home Works, or another ministry that you feel called to support, take the money saved from not buying that one gift and give it to a ministry that helps the less fortunate.

May you see Christ, worship Christ, and share Christ in new ways this Advent and Christmas.



Members to vote at St. John's Annual Meeting on Sunday, December 5

The annual parish meeting of St. John's Episcopal Church will held in the Barr Center gym beginning at 10:15 am on Sunday, December 5, 2010. At this meeting, five new Vestry members will be elected to three year terms.

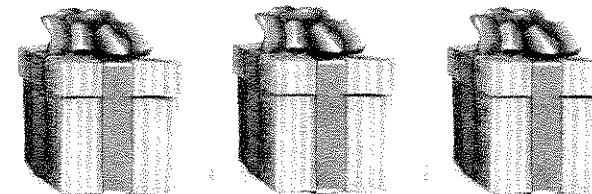
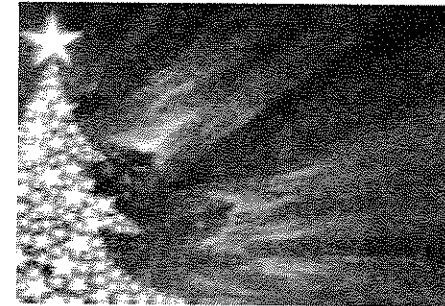
The nominees are Jackie Barker, Cogburn Gaillard, Miriam Hedgepath, Julian Horst, Scott Jaillette, David Lewis. A Senior Warden and a Junior Warden will be elected to one year terms. The nominees are: Dana Turner – Senior Warden and Jason Lockhart – Junior Warden. One delegate to the Diocesan Convention will be elected for a three-year term. The nominee is Gordon Schell.

All members of the congregation 16 years of age and older are entitled to vote at the annual meeting, either in person, or by proxy. Members who are unable to attend the annual meeting should stop by the parish office and sign out the Proxy Voting form and ballot. All forms and ballots must be returned to the office or Michael Burkett, Vestry Secretary, prior to the call to order of the meeting. Forms will be available in the parish office until December 3.

*There will be Sunday School for 3k - 5th grade.
Nursery available.*

Keenagers: Christmas with Charles & Patrick

On Tuesday, December 21, Charles Duvall and Patrick McCormick will present the Christmas program for the Keenagers. Hear Charles' unusual, to say the least, version of the Christmas story. You will learn things about that first Christmas that you cannot believe possible! Patrick, son of Katherine McCormick, will sing for us and with luck his songs will throw some interesting light on those historic events. The program begins at 12:30 pm in the Barr Center Dining Room. Call the Parish Office at 799-4767 to make your reservation by Friday, December 17.



Re-gift Presents with
Servant Ministries
Gift box is located in Heyward Hall. Questions?
Contact Barbara Mullen at 252-1571.

MINISTRY TEAMS

Worship Ministry Team
Marion Swain 803-493-4447
cmswainsr@gmail.com

Servant Ministry Team
Bonnie Montgomery 799-4380
bjmontgomery126@msn.com

Newcomers Ministry Team
Ashley & Scott Jaillette 331-5491
ajaillette@alumni.clemson.edu

Christian Formation Ministry Teams
(adults) Davis Bourne 743-9887
Davis.bourne@palmettohealth.org
(youth) Rebecca Dillard 765-4517
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(children) Anne Stuart McMillan
743-9695 mcmillantrees@sc.rr.com

Administration Ministry Team
John Montgomery 799-4380
bjmontgomery2@sc.rr.com
Stewardship Ministry Team
Jason Lockhart 787-3846
Jlockhartmgclaw.com

Parish Events Ministry Team
Beth Blakeslee 699-3979
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Cathy Bourne 743-9887
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Pastoral Care Ministry Team
Mary Bryan 254-8235
mlbryan@bellsouth.net

Communications Ministry Team
Jennifer Mason 212-1595
jspringer4@yahoo.com

Finance Ministry Team
Mike Miller 799-4498
LMMiller@coloniallife.com

Properties Ministry Team
Jamie LaBorde 798-7181
jlaborde@scana.com

Music Ministry Team
Rodger Stroup 256-0426
histrycur@aol.com

**Centennial Celebration
Ministry Team**
Janine Lewis lewisunc@aol.com

Thank you to St. John's from Haiti

Joyce Pipkin of St. Mary's received the six suitcases of supplies for Haiti from St. John's on Thursday, October 28. She and her husband John will deliver the supplies in early November. The



Dear Ned -
10/31/10
Thank you and the generous
community of St. John's for the
many donated items & fruit boxes
for our brothers & sisters in Haiti.
May God bless you all in a way
beyond way for this act of love to
help those who are in such great need.
At His Love,
Joyce Pipkin

"For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will repose."
Psalm 63:7

following is her thank you note to the People of St. John's. For more information about this project, contact Ned Badgett at 787-8189.

In Memory of



Pearl Wilson
Charles and Laura Meetz

Robert McLaughlin
Hugh and Maor Rogers

Morris Lumpkin
Byrd Hammett
Elizabeth Whitener

Colleen Robinson
Jim and Linda Mittenzwei

October Financials	October	YTD
Budgeted	\$80,993	\$809,930
Received	\$85,847	\$727,149
Amount over (under) budget	\$4,854	(\$82,782)

In October, \$6,128 was received towards the Heyward Hall debt challenge. Pink building fund envelopes are available in the church pews each week.

Music at St. John's

We are now enjoying a season of liturgical music that is among the most meaningful and delightful of all the church year. There are many favorite Advent hymns, from the haunting 15th-century processional chant "O come, O come, Emmanuel" and the great 16th-century German chorale, "Sleepers, wake!" to the lilting Swedish folk tune "Prepare the way, O Zion" and the delightful 20th-century tune "There's a voice in the wilderness crying". As our focus during the four Sundays of Advent moves from John the Baptist to Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, we are amazed once again at the faith and humility of a teenage girl who gladly laid aside her good reputation and her own plans for her future to do the will of God, and so received great blessing. May we all echo Mary's song of praise as we hear it sung once again on the last Sunday in Advent: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior... The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name."



Selah will lead worship at the 9:00 am service on the fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19.

Join the Christmas Choir and sing at the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve! No rehearsals, no part singing—just make a joyful noise singing familiar Christmas carols! All ages are invited—children, teens, and single adults through grandfathers and grandmothers. At the offertory, the choir will sing the refrain of "Go tell it on the mountain" while soloists sing the verses.



On Christmas Eve, we will begin to hear again the astounding news of our Lord's birth. The voices of children will usher in our time of celebration together during their dramatic and musical presentation at 4:00pm on Christmas Eve. Singers, instrumentalists and chime ringers are all eagerly preparing during Advent for their particular contributions.



Players of trumpets, percussion, recorder (early wooden flute), violin, cello, handbells, flute and saxophone will join their voices with those of the congregation and choir at the 10:00pm carol service. Instrumental preludes will include excerpts from the Corelli Christmas Concerto and the Pastoral Symphony from Handel's *Messiah*. And may we all say with the angels "Glory to God in the highest! And peace to his people on earth!"



10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 26



Youth at St. John's

Epiphany: Feast of Lights

January 6

The youth community plays a number of important roles in this annual parish event. Please contact Dorian if you are interested playing a part in this celebration of the Epiphany of our Lord Christ Jesus. We need 18-19 youth to volunteer.

EYC Calendar

Dec 5 Movie Night
Dec 12 Visit Parish Shut-ins
1-4pm: come and join us for lunch
Dec 19 EYC Advent/Christmas Party
SR High Ski Trip: Jan 7-9
Dec 7th: Final Payment Due

**Parish Office Closed
for the Holidays**

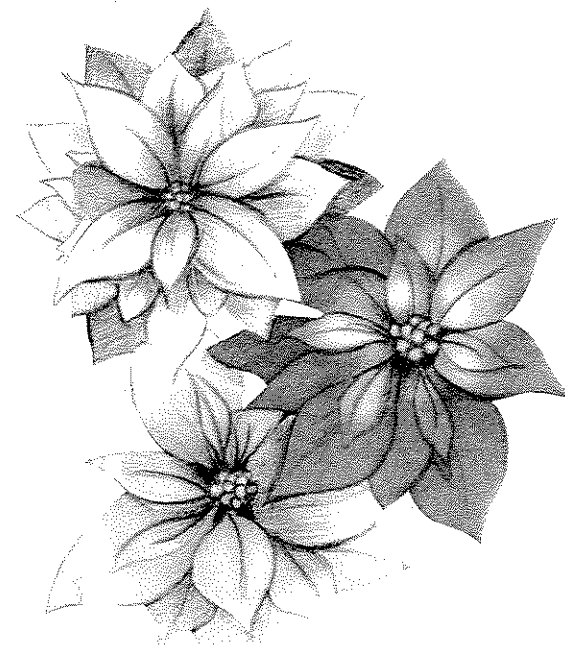
The Parish Office will be closed Friday,
December 24, Monday, December 27
and Friday, December 31

January Messenger Deadline

The January Messenger deadline is
Thursday, December 9, 2010.

**Thank you for
Pledging to St. John's**

*If you have not signed your pledge
card for 2011, please turn it in to
Financial Administrator Barbara
Catoe. We appreciate your
commitment and service
to St. John's!
For more information about Stew-
ardship, contact Barbara at
799-4767.*



**Christmas Decorations
Order Form**

With your help, St. John's Church will be deco-
rated for Christmas, showing forth the glory of the
birth of our Lord through the beauty of flowers.
You may contribute to the purchase of flowers,
poinsettia, greens, and wreaths in honor of a loved
one. Cost is \$15. Deadline is Monday, December
17, 2010. Make checks payable to:

St. John's Episcopal Church and note "Christmas
Flower Memorials" in the memo line. Complete
one form per donation and send a check along
with the form to the church. 2827 Wheat Street,
Columbia, SC 29205.

Parish Life

"Coins for Change" continues as the fund raising vehicle for
a selected parish outreach project. This year, we are seeking to
fund the Weekend feeding program at Hand Middle
School. Many of you have created your own change jars for
this purpose. By placing whatever loose change you have ac-
cumulated in these containers, we are able to collectively make
an impact that is the sum of many. If you are not already par-
ticipating, please pick up a container to decorate in your own
way. The containers can be returned to the church for inclu-
sion with our weekly offertory.

Connections Meg and Brink Hinson will be hosting the Con-
nections (those in their 20's and 30's) holiday party at their
home at 126 Congaree Park Drive on Thursday, December 16,
7pm. For more information, please contact Ashley Jaillette at
803.331-5491 or ajaillette@alumni.clemson.edu.

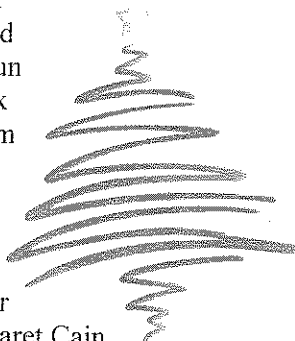
Mental Health Support, Getting Together We can help each
other. Our informal confidential group to support families
whose loved ones are living with mental illness or addiction
will meet Sunday, December 5, at 5:30 pm in the parlor. We
invite you to join us. Call Mary Bryan, 254-8235, or Barbara
Mullen, 252-1571, if you have questions.

Kanuga Parish Weekend 2011, February 18-20, *Many
Voices, One Family*, Speaker: Mark Tidsworth with Pinnacle
Leadership Associates.

Rector's Bible Study Mondays, 11 am, Room 109, lower
level Heyward Hall.

**Giving Tree Gifts are
due Sunday,
December 5**

All packages must
be tagged, wrapped
and returned by Sun-
day, Dec. 5. Thank
you for giving from
a full heart.
We need
volunteers to help
with last minute
shopping & deliver-
ies. Contact: Margaret Cain
(799-0677) or Elisabeth Williamson
(738-1175).



Fall Fling, 2010

Fall Fling was a big success. We raised
approximately \$950 for the St. John's
youth's mission trips!

A special thanks to all the women of
St. John's who contributed.
We couldn't have done it
without your help!

Order Information

Given by: _____

† In memory of: _____

† In honor of: _____

† In thanksgiving of: _____

† In honor of and thanksgiving for: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Phone #: _____

*All potted poinsettias will be delivered to the
sick and shut-in of the parish on Christmas day.*