

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Lessons and Carols— but for Advent?

Surely most Episcopalians have heard of “Lessons and Carols,” and have most likely attended such a service. However, I’ll bet you a hundred to one that is was “Christmas” Lessons and Carols! This Anglican service originated at King’s College, Cambridge and is presented in many parishes and cathedrals every Christmas. It has even spread beyond the Anglican Church and can be found in churches of other traditions.

Because the liturgical calendar dictates our worship, the only possible and appropriate occasion for a Christmas service of lessons and carols is from December 24 to January 5; a rather short and quiet time around St. John’s! Many parishioners travel out of town and most everyone is fairly exhausted for one reason or another.

Because Advent is merely four Sundays, much of the music written for this season is overlooked and short lived. To better experience this music, and to appeal to those desiring a service of lessons and carols, the 10:15am service on Sunday December 16 will be just that: six lessons and carols, Bidding Prayer, intercessions and the Holy Eucharist. The carols will be both choral anthems and congregational hymns.

This service is intended as a preparation for the Christmas celebration and gives us another opportunity to explore the Advent hymnody of the Anglican repertoire. We sing these hymns maybe once each December, and unlike some of our favorites, they never really establish themselves in our minds. Maybe in December 2008 you will remember back to this service of Advent Lessons and Carols and better recall your favorite.

A View from the Big Pew

Dear Friends,

WELCOME TO ADVENT and the beginning again of the Church's liturgical cycle! To enter more fully into the themes and invitation of this short season, it may help to remind ourselves about some of the changes in our worship that characterize Advent at St. John's.

First, **THE WREATH**. Ours is locally fabricated from wrought iron and hangs securely in a prominent place for all to see. Its shape reminds us that God is eternal, without beginning or ending, and that within the changes and chances of our lives God remains constant. The four candles help us to "count" the passage of the Sundays leading up to the Nativity. In a darkening world they serve also to remind us that Christ is the light of the world.

Then, **THE COLOR**. At St. John's we use blue, following an old English usage. Blue is the color associated with Jesus' mother Mary who plays an increasing role near the end of this season. Blue is also the color of the pre-dawn sky as the sun begins its return, marking a new day. That we use blue rather than purple helps us to remember that Advent is not Lent. And while both seasons are seasons of penitence and preparation, there are different ways to do that. Advent invites us to prepare with joy for the celebration of Jesus' first coming and to hold constant in hope for his return. Because we don't use purple - Advent is not Lent, neither do we have a rose-colored candle in our wreath nor use rose-colored vestments as some do to give respite during the longer Lenten season.

Notice **THE GREENS**. There are greens on the wreath. Gradually over the Advent Sundays greens will spread from the shelf behind the altar out to the windows and walls of the nave and even the exterior building doors. Evergreens by their nature remind us of the eternity of God, for they do not die off in the winter. More subtly perhaps, but just as important as a teaching in this busy season: the greens will fill the church gradually. "Gradual" is a pace that is distressingly absent from many lives in the hectic rush of December. If you can find that pace nowhere else, you can find it here. Come and imbibe, to your soul's health!

Don't miss **THE MUSIC**, but don't expect Christmas music. Advent as a season proclaims the Gospel from its own unique vantage point and its own integrity. So our themes are of judgment, expectation, longing and hope, prophetic promise and approaching joy. Our music will reflect this. It may seem a bit subdued. We will use the ancient chant "Trisagion" (thrice holy) in place of the festive "Gloria".

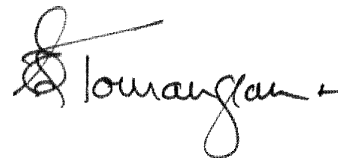
Some **LITURGICAL TEXTS** will change. We pray Eucharistic Prayer B over the bread and wine at the later service because it makes reference to "these last days" and asks worshippers to proclaim, "we await his coming in glory". At both services will pray the "Trisagion" in place of the "Gloria." We'll use a different form for our intercessions, based on some ancient verses of hymnody. The "'O' Antiphons,' added to the richness of Advent as monastics prayed the season. We now enjoy those antiphons in the verses of hymn #56 ("Oh come, Oh come Emmanuel"). At St. John's they will form the basis of our weekly prayer.

I hope again this year to have copies of an **ADVENT CALENDAR** for you. As of the week before Thanksgiving they haven't arrived yet, but they have been ordered. When they arrive get yours and put it somewhere where you see it every day and have a chance to follow its instructions.

Beyond that, for my **PERSONAL SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE AND PREPARATION**, I look forward to the annual silent retreat at Waycross with my sister and brother clergy. We will gather from the afternoon of December 2nd though lunch on the 5th. I am taking two books along: Sunday, a history of how that day has been observed over the centuries. My second choice is The Scratch of a Pen, which examines the consequences (for native peoples and European-born persons alike) of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the French and Indian War when all territory east of the Mississippi River was given into British control. You may hear more of these books!

So ... **How will you mark this holy season of Advent in your personal life?** I don't mean to judge or lay on guilt. I know most of you do not have retreats built into your December calendars. I will nonetheless put the question and make the encouragement. Join in worship with your sisters and brothers. Take some charge of your time. Be careful of what you eat and drink and how much money you spend. Be mindful of those for whom this season is a sad time. Practice justice; that is – after all – what the birth this season prepares for is all about. Find ways to help the rest of us not forget that.

In fact, **write down what you did to make this season a holy time**, and let's find a way to share those individual strategies with one another. A Blessed Advent to us all!



UTO

Once again United Thank Offering supporters have shared their monies of thanksgiving to support worthy grants to help others and our Anglican Communion.

If you have not looked through the recent grants book – do so - It is heartening to see the wonderful outreach of UTO both here in our country and worldwide. It warms my heart to read of the many grants chosen by the national UTO committee. As you may be aware, our own Pat Tourangeau has been a member of that committee for a number of years.

I'm sure Pat would be happy to answer any questions you may have about grants given or possible grant projects to be considered in the future.

UTO boxes and other UTO information are on the chest of drawers outside the kitchen of the parish hall. Please help yourself! Join with others of St. John's in daily prayers and offerings of thanks to God for our daily blessings!

Yours in Christ,
Mary Louise Davis

Bothered and bewildered?

A great old Broadway song, "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered", stated, the eternal dilemma of a gal who loved often. Loving feels great, the song seemed to say, but is it really worth all the trouble and risk?

Here comes the time of year when every good cause that ever plucked at a heart string sends a special appeal to those of us who care. Faced with all that worthy need, I feel bothered and bewildered, if not bewitched. One solution my friend's use is "the circular file" for all of it. Other friends neatly stack appeals, look at their fiscal picture year's end and decide which priorities matter most to them before writing a check. The IRS now places charitable un-pledged contributions in a separate category from pledged contributions, implying that pledged contributions are somehow not as charitable as unpledged contributions.

Yes, I'm thankful for God's blessings. Yes, I gratefully respond. Jesus counseled the troubled rich man to give away all his possessions to the poor and follow Him. Doing so in my case would barely qualify as a drop in a bucket bailing an ocean of need. Would it free me spiritually or simply place me in the needy category, myself? My fiscally responsible financial advisor reminds me that "longevity risk" results from the blessings of good health and long life. To be fiscally responsible could then leave me clinging tightly to every cent I possess, lest the shibboleth of stark impoverishment haunt me in my more senior moments, days, years and decades.

Picture a scale of zero to ten, with zero meaning I give away all I possess and am left with nothing at all. Ten meaning that I hoard all resources, hoping they'll exponentially increase so I, too, will achieve billionaire status. On that scale, I find my generosity indicator needle points erratically between, say, two and eight, hovering more often in the four to six range. With such a navigational compass and not quite drowning in a sea of appeals to my caring, I bob up and down, occasionally striking out toward what looks like a beckoning shore. Bothered and bewildered by awareness of need, I continue to place an occasional bet on the church's good work.

A tsunami of appeals from worthy causes, commercial advertisers, and, yes, even early primary candidates are rushing upon us. If, in its aftermath you find any pennies in the toe of your Christmas stocking, how about saving them for World Mission Sunday, February 3, 2008, when we will hope to "Extend God's grace to everyone, everywhere."

Dorothy A. Jones, Parish Representative for Episcopal Relief and Development

Bishop Ted Jones Memorial Fund

The vestry has decided to provide a memorial gift for Bishop Jones by contributing to the capital remodeling project of Trinity Church, Bloomington. After his retirement, he and wife Anne attended Trinity and he was very much interested in a planned new entrance and baptismal font. Because of Bishop Ted's long and active involvement with St John's, the vestry believes this to be an important gift. **We are inviting any of you who wish to contribute to this fund to make a contribution to St John's and label it for the Bishop Jones Fund.** If you are contributing, please do so before December 31, 2007.

Dennis Sorge
Senior Warden

What: Epiphany Festival

Who: Everyone!

When: Epiphany Sunday, January 6 at 9:15

Where: Commons

Why: To celebrate!

Meet the magi!

Eat King's Cake!

Play Games!

Have fun!

The Magi had a baby shower for Jesus. Let's have one too!

Suggested donation: 1 of the following items*

Contents (NEW items only, size 3-9 months)

- Ö 2 gowns/sleepers (lightweight cotton)
- Ö 2 undershirts/onesies (short or long sleeves)
- Ö 4 cloth diapers (flat-folded preferred)
- Ö 1 receiving blanket (medium weight cotton or flannel; minimum 36 ")
- Ö 4 safety pins (2")
- Ö 1 bar mild soap (4-5oz; in wrapper)
- Ö Remove packaging material (except soap) and fold into the receiving blanket. Fasten together with the safety pins.
- Ö Note: Nylon and nylon fleece are **not** suitable fabrics. Items can either be purchased or hand sewn.

*One of our activities at the Epiphany Festival will be to put together Newborn Kits for distribution in hospitals, clinics, and refugee camps overseas. The Magi had a baby shower for Jesus. Let's have one too!

Thanks

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution of \$70.00* to Hunger Hike 2007. Your contribution will be used to support the important hunger relief efforts of LUM, Food Finders Food Bank and the Haiti Committee of St. Thomas Aquinas Center.

** This in addition to \$595 received to sponsor hikers, including several sponsor checks forwarded to Hunger Hike.*



Habitat For Humanity

On Saturday, November 10th, St. John's participated in our second weekend of the Apostle Build. George Moore, Andrea Rademacher, Bob Slagel and Dennis Sorge arrived early on the chilly morning ready to work. Dorothy Jones, Jane Thompsen and I prepared food, drinks and snacks for the workers. The Bristis gave a monetary donation toward the lunch. While we were told the project was ahead of schedule, we did not realize how much until we arrived. There was touch-up painting, installing appliances and clean-up. All jobs were completed BEFORE lunch. A job well done everyone!!



Habitat for Humanity invites you to join Jennifer Ellison, her daughter Sierra and the Apostle Build churches in celebration of the Ellison's new home. The house blessing will occur on Saturday, December 1st at 4pm. The house is located at 3223 Townsend Drive in Bristol Park (off Poland Hill Road). All members of St. John's are invited. Please mark your calendars.

Thank you to everyone who made this ministry such a huge success. All the feedback we have received has been positive so we are considering repeating our pledge to help Habitat for Humanity again in the future. No worries for those whose thumbs are still sore from helping with the construction. We are considering participating in 2009 so you will have ample time to heal!

Nolie Parnell
Jr. Warden



The following letter was written at my request. Moira has been attending St. John's for a while when she can. She and I met and discussed her interest and concern for our military personnel. I suggested the best way for her to solicit support would be through a letter in the Eagle. I know that many of you have asked us to pray for men and women in the service, and I am certain that you support those persons in other ways as well. Perhaps you who have never been presented with the opportunity of supporting our troops, would be willing to contact Moira to see if there are ways you can encourage and perhaps join her in this project and get to know and welcome her to St. John's as well. ET

Dear Congregation,

My name is Moira Croley, and I attend church at St. John's. I am a veteran, and I am a student at Purdue University. Having been in the service, I know military life can be a very lonely existence. Knowing this, I decided I wanted to help a soldier in Afghanistan or Iraq.

A few weeks ago, I was looking on the Veteran's Administration website and found a link to <adoptausoldier.org>. I signed up to sponsor a soldier. Well, instead of one soldier, I wound up with six. I received an email from SSG Jose Martinez in Afghanistan. He has five soldiers under him, one is a female. They work in a motor pool. His email said they need everything. I was prepared to help one soldier, I wasn't expecting six. So, I am turning to my community to help me help them.

This obligation will last until August 2008, when these soldiers are scheduled to come home. If anyone is willing to donate items on a one time or ongoing basis, I would appreciate it. They need shampoo, shaving cream and razors, body wash, toothpaste and toothbrushes, antiperspirant and snacks. One soldier is not getting any mail from home. If anyone would like to help me support these troops by writing letters or sending care packages, please contact me. My email addresses are bethaney60@aol.com or mecroley@purdue.edu. My telephone number is 765-447-3272.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this, and let's hope and pray that the troops come home soon and these wars are ended.

Sincerely,
Moira Croley

2nd Wednesday Lunchtime Concert

12:10pm - December 12

Karen Goff, soprano soloist

December's artist at our monthly lunchtime concert will be Karen Goff. Karen shared a similar program with us last Advent and will return to sing Baroque selections by Handel and Bach, a contemporary setting of *Ave Maria* and more. Come enjoy this wonderful concert during a busy December!

DIOCESAN CONVENTION – IT’S MORE THAN A WEEKEND OUT OF TOWN!

Sure, it’s great to get out of town once in a while. It’s even better to gather with several hundred of our closest Episcopalians and see what’s happening in our church(s) at this time. Learn about really neat new stuff and events and catch up with people you haven’t seen in a long time.

Over the last weekend of October, the 170th Diocesan Convention met in Columbus, IN. Using a new format this year (Friday through Sunday) we met to consider resolutions, enjoy an evangelism tool of the diocese—“Mission Moments,” pass next year’s budget, see wonderful displays about things happening both inside and outside our diocese, enjoy hearing the Sudanese Boys’ Choir from Louisville, KY and try new ways of discussing, considering and solving problems. Last, but not least, was to join in corporate worship with others from churches surrounding us, always a deeply moving experience for me.

For problem solving, we used the “World Cafe” format. Everyone was arbitrarily assigned tables each of which was to consider three questions:

- “ Assuming that the way we choose to spend our money is a statement of our values and what we consider important, in what ways could we allocate the financial resources of the diocese so as to be a better statement about our faith and mission?
- “ What needs to happen in your congregation and in the diocese for you to be excited about our gathered life and willing to serve locally or at a diocesan level – fully believing that your contribution makes a difference?
- “ In what way(s) is your congregation thriving and how can the diocesan household support that vitality and benefit from your experience?

After 20 minutes of discussion at the first table, we changed to a second table for the next 20 minutes and then we made the final 20-minute switch. At each of the three tables, we could choose to speak about one, two or all three of the questions. Once the “table hopping” was done, the entire group came together to share observations about the conversations. Anyone could approach the microphone and share his/her observation(s).

Some of these comments were:

- “ It all boils down to individuals and God.
- “ We need to focus beyond just the “Episcopal” denomination – go interfaith.
- “ More communication between parishes and the diocese needed.
- “ It seems we don’t have much faith in ourselves – take a leap of faith! Trust!
- “ We want to share and communicate and know what others have to say, but we don’t know how.
- “ Find ways to share mission, goal, function and life of parish, diocese, national church and Anglican Communion with all who walk in a parish door.
- “ We don’t do a lot of advertising; most of the public only hears the negative.
- “ “With God’s help.” We can’t do it alone. The Holy Spirit always works. Recognize that.

There were several more pages of much of the same. What I found important here is that the comments (both at the tables and at the microphone) seemed to be able to be placed in the following areas: 1) people – their value and their needs and abilities; 2) the Holy Spirit – allow the Spirit to work and be amazed (acknowledging that the Spirit works both through people and situations); 3) Vision – we all want what’s best for our church; we don’t seem to know how to do it (but we WANT to know- teach us!); and 4) Community – we need and want others to share our spiritual life and journey.

I am convinced that discussions such as the ones we heard on Saturday morning are the hope for action. This is simply because we all became aware of not only what others are positively doing at their churches, but also what doesn’t seem to work out there in the world. If we could just find some “perfect” way of keeping in touch with each other (and acknowledging that other churches may do something better than we have), we could have the most outstanding unity in the world. It’s always good to know that much of what we have done for the good of our parish and our community are also being done (and done equally) well by other churches. I came out of that session truly believing that the impossible just might be possible after all.

Having had much pre-convention discussion regarding the diocesan budget, it passed with relatively little concern (MANY thanks to those who did the pre-submission work – it made it easier for all of us). Numerous

resolutions were considered, discussed, amended and passed (a full list of topics is available below. If you wish details, ask any of the delegates. (An asterisk marks those which acted upon resolutions considered at the national convention; those which may require our financial consideration at a local level, are also noted). Diocesan reports were submitted, and we worshiped together. We even learned a Sudanese song to sing during communion. (Dinka is a VERY hard language to learn, but it sounds really great sung by a group of dedicated, talented young men.)

All in all, it was a weekend of learning, communicating, re-connecting and worshiping with a fellowship of friends. Being a delegate to the Diocesan Convention requires thought, consideration and dedication to doing the job and doing it well. But, it's one of the best jobs I've ever had. Thank you for letting me represent you, the St. John's family. It was an honor to do so.

E. Linda Jeffries

RESOLUTIONS CONSIDERED, AMENDED, PASSED, 2007 Diocesan Convention

Having created an "Executive Council" and re-defined the Standing Committee duties, there were numerous changes to the Canons reflecting this change of terminology and responsibilities. All of these changes were introduced as amendments to the Canons and passed.

*Resolution on Immigration

*Resolution on Full and Equal Claim for All the Baptized

*A Resolution to direct Executive Council to create a policy for travel to diocesan meetings. (Might require some financial concern for us)

*Amendment to Resolution on Environmental Stewardship (financial concern for us)

Resolution on Evangelism

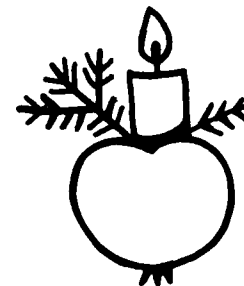
Resolution for Anglican Covenant

Resolution on Recognition of Peace Episcopal Church, Rockport, IN

*Resolution on Election of Bishops

* Resolution on Millennium Development Goals (financial concern for us)

Resolution on a Living Wage (financial concern for us)



REPORTS ACCEPTED (NO VOTE REQUIRED)

Alternatives Incorporated (to eradicate family violence in all forms in Central Indiana)	
Daughters of the King	Indianapolis Episcopal Cursillo
Parochial Report	Standing Committee
Office of Communication/Evangelism	Episcopal Spiritual Directors
United Thank Offering	Archives
Episcopal Church women's Council (ECW)	Episcopal Fund for Human Need
New Congregations Committee	Committee on Mission Strategy
Society of the Magi	Personnel Policy/Compensation Ctte

MOM'S MORNING OUT

Mom's Morning Out (MMO) is offered once a month (except for the months of June and July) to any parent in the St. John's congregation. Childcare is provided to allow a parent time to accomplish as much (or as little!) as they want without the loving support of their child(ren). This ministry is free to all but we appreciate being told in advance if your child is coming so we have an adequate child to sitter ratio. The next MMO is Tuesday, December 11th from 9am until 11am. Susan Chandler provides childcare. If interested, contact Nolie Parnell, Kelley Bailey or Susan Chandler.



PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Parent's Night Out is a ministry that is offered once every semester. The focus is to allow parents several hours of unstructured time without their child(ren). The fall semester PNO was held on Friday, November 16th from 5:30-8:30pm. There were several families who participated and by everyone's account (children and parents alike), it was a success. While the children ate hot dogs and macaroni 'n cheese for dinner, I can guarantee the parents did not! The parents visited several of the local establishments for a tasty meal. There was a craft, and the children played several different games such as checkers and Candy Land while their parents enjoyed uninterrupted time with their spouse.

Thanks to Susan, Lara and Alycia for providing childcare so this event could happen. If you wanted to participate but were unable to do so, don't worry. Parent's Night Out will be offered again in the spring semester. Stay tuned!

Nolie Parnell

Nursery News

Things are changing in the nursery. We are not receiving new furniture. The schedule will remain the same. So what is it? Beginning in January 2008 there will be new nursery coordinators. After four years of service to the nursery Kelley and I are stepping down. Not because we are disgruntled or frustrated. We believe it is time for us to move on, to explore other avenues of stewardship in the St. John's community. We also believe to maintain a strong nursery program new leadership is imperative so fresh ideas and directions can take root and grow. The new nursery coordinators are Angie Mosier and Annie Schreiber. Angie and Annie will be working with us over the next couple of months learning about childcare within St. John's, so the transition in January will be very smooth. Both are very excited about their new responsibilities, so please take a moment when you see them next to thank them for saying "yes"!

On Sunday, December 16th, we are planning a small Christmas party for our fabulous sitters, Susan and Lara. These two are fantastic. They give 3 hours of their time every Sunday, and many more hours whenever there is the need for childcare with other St. John's programs. Susan and Lara are terrific with the children and make the nursery such a great place for the littlest members of St. John's. So we would like to say Thank You to Susan and Lara by having the party and giving them a gift. If you would like to contribute toward the gifts, please let either one of us know. We would greatly appreciate your support.

As always, if you have any suggestions or comments regarding the nursery, please don't hesitate to contact one of us and let us know.

Nolie Parnell and Kelley Bailey

Listen Up!

First of all I would like to extend my thanks to all those who took the time to make the blankets for Jubilee Christmas. As I was looking at my squares that have accumulated in my leftover basket, I got to thinking that there must be something we could do with all the bits that I am sure you have accumulated. I would love to have all that are not wanted. **I have a plan !**

Therefore, if you don't want your corner squares, give them to me, if you would. I promise to do something creative with them.

Marylin Howland Ross

