

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NEWS

ADVENT-EPIPHANY 2011-12

In the Flesh

Carnival. Chili con carne. Incarnate. These are words of meat, of flesh, of substance. We are beginning our liturgical seasons of incarnation: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Seasons during which we celebrate God enfleshed, as fully human, as muscle and bone and tissue. God as one of us.

If you find that hard to contemplate, you might take comfort that it has ever been thus. During the first four centuries of the church, the divine and human in Jesus was hotly contested. The notion that Jesus, a mere human being, was "adopted" by God (Adoptionism); or that Jesus

was purely God and merely seemed to have human form (Docetism); or that Jesus had two completely distinct natures, divine and human (Nestorianism); or that Jesus had a single divine nature (Monophysitism) were all rejected by general councils of the church. The orthodox doctrine of the Incarnation recognized Jesus to be "truly God and truly man . . . in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation," as noted by the Council of Chalcedon. This is according to the Glossary of the Episcopal Church (451) and the Book of Common Prayer. (p. 864). *(continues inside)*



October saw the installation of a playground on the north lawn at St. John's. Spearheaded by Sue Woods, the playground will serve the growing community of children who call St. John's home, as well as any kids in the neighborhood which is otherwise park-free.

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IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
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Other issues remain in our day: deism (belief in God but not in religion), positivism (what is not observable is not knowable), humanism (belief in living ethical lives of personal fulfillment without God), capitalism, cynicism, perfectionism – all these can preoccupy our intellect, and distract us from the mystery that comes to us in the flesh. It is a mystery we can

recognize in stillness and in song, in our hunger and our feasts, in the smell of baking bread and the heat of chili con carne, the beauty of our sky and the bitterness of our cold, in our fever and fretting; a mystery we recognize with our bodies, our own flesh.

To know and be known by God is our path. Jesus, in his divinity and in his humanity comes among

us this season, and in all seasons, to take our arm in his, to nudge our shoulders, to match our pace and walk along with us, as one of us.

That bears contemplation, to be sure. But Incarnation is best as experienced, rather than as thought about. Enjoy the feasts of wintertime and live deeply with one another. Christ our companion is on his way!

of the Epiphany through the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. The length of the season varies according to the date of Easter.

The gospel stories of this season describe various events that manifest the divinity of Jesus. The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Epiphany. The Baptism of our Lord is

observed on the Sunday after Epiphany. The gospels for the other Sundays of the Epiphany season describe the wedding at Cana, the calling of the disciples, and various miracles and teachings of Jesus.

The Last Sunday after the Epiphany is always devoted to the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity as the Son of God

is dramatically revealed in the Transfiguration gospel, as well as the gospel of the baptism of Christ. We are called to respond to Christ in faith through the showings of his divinity recorded in the gospels of the Epiphany season.

— *More from the Glossary* —

Advent — The first season of the church year, beginning with the fourth Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from a Latin word for “coming.” The season is a time of preparation and expectation for the coming celebration of our Lord’s nativity, and for the final coming of Christ “in power and glory.”

Christmas — a festival celebrated on Dec. 25, commemorating the Incarnation of the Word of God in the birth of Jesus Christ. In the BCP it is also called The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. The Christmas season lasts twelve days, from Christmas Day until Jan. 5, the day before the Epiphany. The season includes Christmas

Day, the First Sunday after Christmas Day, the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and may include the Second Sunday after Christmas Day.

The customs associated with Christmas have developed from many sources. From early days the popular observance of Christmas was marked by the joy and celebration characteristic of the Roman Saturnalia and the pagan festivals which it replaced. It came to include the decoration of houses with greenery and the giving of gifts to children and the poor. In Britain other observances were added including the Yule log and Yule cakes, fir trees, gifts, and greetings. Fires and lights (symbols of warmth and lasting life) and evergreens (symbols of survival) were traditionally

associated with both pagan and Christian festivals. Their use developed considerably in England with the importation of German customs and through the influence of the writings of Charles Dickens.

According to the Philocalian calendar, Christmas was first celebrated in Rome in the year 336. The date, Dec. 25, rests on no historical foundation. It was probably chosen to oppose the feast Natalis Solis Invicti, the birthday of the “Unconquerable Sun God” (Saturn), which took place at the winter solstice to celebrate the birth of “the Sun of Righteousness.”

Epiphany — The coming of the Magi is celebrated on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6. The season is four to nine weeks, from the Feast

— *Events to Remember:* —

Thomas the Apostle Center **will host an Advent quiet** day, “Finding God in Familiar Words: The Eucharist as a Silent Advent Retreat.” The event is Saturday, December 3rd, 9:00 am—1:00 pm. The retreat will be led by Ron Lytle. It is \$20 and lunch is included. Call 587-4400 for more information or to register.

The Altar Guild will hold its Annual Meeting/Polishing Party/Brunch on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10:00 am.

The Annual Christmas tree-cutting trip to Five Springs will be Saturday, December 10. We will meet at the Nickles home, 349 N. Douglas at 9:30 a.m. and caravan up the mountain. Permits for tree cutting can be purchased on the way. Please contact Megan for opportunities to bring food and drinks. All are welcome!

The first of our **Packing for the Journey** workshops will be Sunday, December 11 after coffee hour. We will be focusing on worship ministries, including lector, intercessor, worship leader, greeters and acolytes. There will be an introduction on the significance

of our worship, and we will be covering preparing for each role, developing a presence and qualities of good leadership. Charlotte Patrick will be leading a session on voice and reading. All current lectors and worship leaders should attend to keep your license current. Anyone interested in offering yourself to these ministries are invited to come, learn and practice and explore.

Save the date: the Annual Meeting of the Membership of St. John’s is January 29, 2012, following the service.

Thanks to all for a very successful (\$292.25) United Thank Offering In-Gathering!

Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes contributions are always needed and appreciated. There is a basket for Loaves and Fishes contributions in the Narthex for items that will be delivered to the Annex.

The Rev. Megan Nickles (754-4218) is available at any time. Please call to make an appointment or for any emergency.

Altar Guild:

December – DeWitt/Lytle
 January – Woods/DeWitt
 February – TBA

Powell Valley Care Center January Birthday Party – Monday, January 9, 2:30pm

Powell Valley Care Center Service
 – Sunday, January 29, 2:30pm

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 21

ESL – Tuesdays at 9am and 7pm

Vestry Meeting Last Sunday of each month

Thrift Shop Cleaning Day
 Wed., Jan 4, 1pm
 Mon., Jan. 30, 1pm

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Adele Doughty
 4 Patricia Haberstroh
 6 Claudia Hassler
 7 Kim Dillivan
 12 Jane Woods
 30 Margaret Clabaugh

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

20 Joe & Ellen Galligan
 24 Pete & Deb Chidsey

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

15 Gretchen Beerline
 20 Walt McCauley
 26 Rusty McKeen
 30 Carra Wetzel
 31 Nancy Bonner

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

3 Cynthia & Martin Garhart

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Charlie Larsen
 10 Miles Rumbolz
 14 Jo DeWitt
 16 Justine Larsen
 18 Walt Seeley
 21 Jan Lenhard
 21 Laura Greathouse

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

26 Nick & Madelyn Morris

Lectors:

Please contact Megan Nickles if you are unavailable to serve on your assigned Sunday. If you have arranged to switch with another reader, contact Diana Anderson so the bulletin will be accurate. We are currently in lectionary Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary. The complete readings are printed in the lectionary book at the lectern. The readings are available on-line at lectionarypage.net. If there is a choice between two Hebrew Bible lessons (Old Testament), we will be using the first choice, which offers a loosely chronological narrative of stories of The Great Family. If the preacher decides to use other readings, you will be notified.

If you want to understand the context of your reading, there are many excellent websites that provide notes and background for each lection. Go to <http://textweek.com/> for quick access to these sites.

Schedule Advent • Christmas • Epiphany

	November 27	December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25	January 1	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29	February 5	February 12	February 19
	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Holy Name	Epiphany 1	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3	Epiphany 4	Epiphany 5	Epiphany 6	Last Sunday of Epiphany
Year B	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	6:00 p.m.	No Service	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Greeters	Elaine DeBuhr	Josephine DeWitt	Pet Chidsey	Martha Moewes	Mary Dillivan		Elaine DeBuhr	Susan McEvoy	Martha Moewes	Rob Koelling	Pete Chidsey	Josephine DeWitt	Elaine DeBuhr	Martha Moewes
	Susan McEvoy	Katy Lytle	Deb Chidsey	Jennifer Jensen	Kim Dillivan		Carol Bendick	Katy Lytle	Jennifer Jensen	Deb Koelling	Deb Chidsey	Susan McEvoy	Jennifer Jensen	Katy Lytle
Acolyte	Carol Bendick	Deb Chidsey	Walter Johnson	Carol Bendick	Deb Chidsey		Walter Johnson	Carol Bendick	Deb Chidsey	Walter Johnson	Carol Bendick	Deb Chidsey	Walter Johnson	Carol Bendick
Worship Leader	Mary Dillivan	Jan Lenhard	Laura Greathouse	Rob Rumbolz	Diana Anderson		Megan Nickles	Carra Wetzel	Laura Greathouse	Mary Dillivan	Jan Lenhard	Rob Rumbolz	Diana Anderson	Laura Greathouse
Lector 1	Carol Bendick	Deb Koelling	Madelyn Morris	Nick Morris	To be		Bill Hassler	Rob Koelling	Katy Lytle	Justine Larsen	Jennifer Jensen	Steve Nickles	Mary Dillivan	Katy Lytle
Lector 2	Jennifer Jensen	Rob Koelling	Steve Nickles	Elaine DeBuhr	assigned		Mary Dillivan	Deb Koelling	Charlotte Patrick	Scott Larsen	Nick Morris	Carol Bendick	Madelyn Morris	Bill Hassler
Preacher	Megan Nickles	Carra Wetzel	Diana Anderson	Ron Lytle	*		Rob Rumbolz	Megan Nickles	Carra Wetzel	Charlotte Patrick	Diana Anderson	Warren Murphy	Carra Wetzel	Megan Nickles
Intercessor	Rob Rumbolz	Diana Anderson	Carra Wetzel	Laura Greathouse	Jan Lenhard		Carra Wetzel	Diana Anderson	Jan Lenhard	Laura Greathouse	Rob Rumbolz	Carra Wetzel	Charlotte Patrick	Diana Anderson
Presider	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles		Ron Lytle	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Warren Murphy	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles
Sound	Scott Larsen	Steve Nickles	Sue Woods	Scott Larsen	Monte Nickles		Sue Woods	Steve Nickles	Sue Woods	Scott Larsen	Steve Nickles	Scott Larsen	Sue Woods	Rob Rumbolz
Coffee host	Larsen	Dillivan	McKeen	Bendick			Cookie Carry-In	Nickles	DeWitt	Koelling				
Flowers		Dillivan	McCauley	McCauley	DeWitt/Walsh		DeWitt/Walsh	Wetzel	Wetzel	Nickles	Nickles	Weems	Weems	