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St. John's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWS

ISSUE 16-09 • POWELLEPISCOPAL.COM • ADVENT 2016

ADVENT

*The good news of Advent is that if we wait,
while we wait, in the waiting, God comes.*

Advent is a season of hopeful anticipation of God's breaking into our world and our time. It is composed of four Sundays prior to Christmas Day, beginning this year on November 27. Liturgical colors are used for vestments and altar decoration (frontals) to mark the seasons and to symbolize the themes. The color used for Advent is either purple or blue. We prefer blue to represent water - the water over which God's Spirit moved in Creation (Gen. 1) to begin the process of life and the water of Baptism which is the starting place for

all Christians who anticipate the coming of Christ into their lives. The liturgies of Advent are characterized by a sense of the awesomeness of the God for whom we wait. We often use an Advent Wreath of four or five candles, lighting one more each week, to mark the time of waiting. This year at St. John's, we will be singing a quiet chant while the children sound their chimes as the Advent Candle is lit. Many families have their own Advent Wreath custom at home.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas is the Season when we proclaim the unique nature of our God - that God does not stand aloof from us, but fully enters into our lives. The first liturgy of Christmas is the Eve of that day. At St. John's, we celebrate this first liturgy of Christmas at 6pm on Christmas Eve, and it is a joy-filled time of being together, looking inward and looking outward. The season of

Christmas lasts for 12 days, beginning on the 25th and ending on the 12th night, or January 5th. The color used in Christmas liturgies is white, symbolizing purity, joy, and hope.

In our world today, our culture bombards us with images of a perfect Christmas that is obtainable if one spends the "right" amount of money on the "perfect" gift.

St. John's would like to offer support for alternative ways to celebrate new or ongoing traditions of simplicity and meaning during this Advent and Christmas Season. How can one find new ways to celebrate these seasons in a way that deepens our faith, deepens our relationships with each other and the world, and deepens the Advent/Christmas meaning? A good

first step would be to begin the discussion: how can we celebrate this year? What new traditions can we create? What treasured traditions do we hold dear? What does this look like as our children are now adults? What can this mean for families with young children or for families with no children? Here are a few examples to consider:

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- * The Nickles/Woods family has decided to forego giving each other gifts this year. They will fill stockings for each other with small, personal, meaningful things. They will also carry on their tradition of exchanging Christmas Cards with each other and sharing this exchange as a family.
- * Another St. John's Family, the Tillotsons, have continued to enjoy a tradition that Angela's grandparents initiated. It's a competition of sorts, with participants making ice cream balls (usually vanilla with coconut) that have a candle in the center. The competition is to see whose candle stays lit the longest. The winner is pronounced King or Queen for the year and presented a crown made out of an ice cream bucket decorated with tinsel. Their picture is taken and their name is added to a scroll which lists previous winners.
- * Another way to create memories is to travel together as a family in lieu of gifts, with the focus on spending time together. This could be as simple as planning day trips to spending days away.
- * Another tradition, in lieu of gifts, is to make a donation to a favorite charitable organization in a loved one's name. Locally, this could include Powell Valley Loaves & Fishes, the local Marine Toys for Tots, the Senior Center, the Moyer Animal Shelter, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition. Globally, this could include Heifer International (they work in the areas of livestock and agriculture to develop programs that alleviate hunger and poverty), the Humane Society, the ASCPA, St. Jude's Children Hospital, etc. The important idea is that it is a place of great meaning to the person in whose name the donation is being made.
- * Buy socks! Socks are the #1 most requested item at homeless shelters. This fact is the driving force behind Bombas. Bombas exists to help solve this problem, to support the homeless community, and to bring awareness to an under-publicized problem in the United States. Visit <https://bombas.com/pages/giving-back> for more information.
- * A donation of time is also important, especially to volunteer your time along with your kids, partner, or loved one. Spend some time visiting at the nursing home. Help sort and organize food items at Powell Valley Loaves and Fishes. Call the Moyer Animal Shelter and see how you can help with cleaning the animal cages, walking the dogs, or other specific needs they may have.

A favorite St. John's tradition is our annual ***Christmas Tree Cutting Trip***. On Saturday, December 3, we will organize at the Nickles' home at 10am and journey to the Big Horns for our annual event. Megan will create a potluck sign-up sheet that will be posted next to the Coffee Hour sign-up sheet. Please note that permits can be obtained at the "Country Store" Gas Station in Lovell (same place as last year), which is on the way to the Big Horns. Their phone number is 307-548-7110. The Lovell Forest Service Office is not issuing tree permits at this time.

At this time of year the realm of nature becomes still and quiet. People are busy in their homes preparing for the celebrations of the season. Inwardly, it is also a time of preparation, contemplation and hope. We search our hearts, minds, and souls for the

inner light that will carry us through the dark days of winter.

Spending time together with your family, however one defines that family, creating memories, deepening the bonds of love and commitment, tilling the inner garden of faith and hope in ourselves and in each other to strengthen that covenant with our God. We wait for Christ with an open heart.

Save the Date: on February 25 Bishop Smylie invites lay people within the Big Horn Basin to join him for Deanery Dream Days. These events are a way to come together in fellowship and worship while learning what God's dream is for you and your parish. The meeting is at Holy Trinity, Thermopolis from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. More information will follow as the date approaches.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

NOVEMBER

28 Oscar Trevino & Jen Litterer-Trevino

DECEMBER

4 Patricia Kling

6 Claudia Hassler

7 Kim Dillivan

7 Carol Knight

12 Jane Woods

30 Margaret Clabaugh

JANUARY

1 Jim McEvoy

2 Frank Dulin & John Cordner

3 Cynthia & Martin Garhart

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

Powell Valley Loaves & Fishes report: during the month of October 96 families/374 people were served. Contributions are always needed and appreciated. There is a basket for food donations in the Narthex that will be delivered to the Annex. Monetary donations are also very much appreciated.

Christmas Eve Service – 6pm

ALTAR GUILD

December: Jane Woods and Susan McEvoy
 January: Deb Bush and Megan Nickles

Christmas Tree Trip: Saturday, December 3. Meet at the Nickles' home at 10am to carpool to Five Springs Campground in the Big Horns. Potluck sign-up sheets will be forthcoming...stay tuned.

The Thrift Shop will be closed for Thanksgiving Nov. 23 through the 28th.

It will open on Wednesday, Nov. 30, which will be a Cleaning Day!

Friday, Dec. 16, is the last day the Shop will be open for this year..

The Shop will reopen on Wed., Jan. 4, which will also be a Cleaning Day!

Schedule • Adv

	November 27	December 2
Day	Advent I	Advent 2
Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Time	10:30am	10:30am
Greeters	Josephine DeWitt	Martha Moore
	Deb Chidsey	Walter Johnson
Acolyte	Dylan McEvoy	Natalie Dillivan
Worship Leader	Laura Greathouse	Tim Seeley
Lectors	Ron Lytle	Bill Hassler
	Jim McEvoy	Deb Bush
Presider	David Fox	Megan Nickles
Intercessor	Diana Anderson	Carra Wetzel
Preacher	David Fox	Mary Dillivan
Eucharistic Servers	Alethea Durney	Tim Seeley
	Tim Glatzer	Carra Wetzel
Sound	Robert Rumbolz	Robert Rumbolz
Eucharistic Bread	Susan McEvoy	Carra Wetzel
Coffee Host	Tillotson	Dillivan
Flowers	Dillivan	Dillivan

If you're shopping on
 The church receives

ent 2016

er 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	January 1	January 8
	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	New Year's Day	Epiphany I
union	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
	10:30am	10:30am	6:00pm	10:30am	10:30am
wes	Dylan McEvoy	Chester Bettger	Angela Tillotson	Josephine DeWitt	Deb Bush
son	Jim McEvoy	Genny Bettger	Shane Tillotson	Deb Chidsey	Martha Moewes
an	Grant Dillivan	Dylan McEvoy	Natalie Dillivan	Grant Dillivan	Dylan McEvoy
	Robert Rumbolz	Charlotte Patrick	Kim Dillivan	Susan McEvoy	Laura Greathouse
	Tim Glatzer	Mickey Waddell	Justine Larsen	Angela Tillotson	Steve Nickles
	Elaine DeBuhr	Genny Bettger	Scott Larsen	Shane Tillotson	Bob Grover
es	Margaret Babcock	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles	Megan Nickles
l	Diana Anderson	Katy Lytle	Mary Dillivan	Jan Lenhard	Carra Wetzel
n	Margaret Babcock	Tim Seeley	*	Charlotte Patrick	Megan Nickles
	Steve Nickles	Charlotte Patrick	Kim Dillivan	Angela Tillotson	Walter Johnson
l	Genny Bettger	Shane Tillotson	Mary Dillivan	Jan Lenhard	Steve Nickles
bolz	Scott Larsen	Robert Rumbolz	Monte Nickles	Scott Larsen	Robert Rumbolz
l	Diana Anderson	Genny Bettger	Mary Dillivan	Laurel McKeen	Charlotte Patrick
	Bush	Nickles	*		Grover
	Lytle	Lytle	McCauley	McCauley	Wetzel

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