

# "The Ark"

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Fallbrook, California  
December 2007



Dear St. John's Episcopal Church,

We will not forget those who have gone thru the 07 Wildfires. We will learn with them and from them that good can come out of crisis. Advent will come to our help as we come back to the Fallbrook Community Center that was used for another type of crisis in our community and we will look at the Prophet Isaiah and the gospel according to Matthew. Two excellent sources to look for God when we do not see or feel His presence.

I don't know if you've ever been in misery. I do know that today we can pick up our telephone and talk with someone we know who has lost almost everything in the recent fires. There is misery in our midst but there is also the Messiah. Neither they who know misery or us who have heard stories about it will not be alone. Advent is a time to remember Immanuel. We have God with us not only when we worship together but when we go home too where our loved ones are. And if you have Immanuel, you can handle everything else that will come your way.

We have a Daily Reflections booklet for everyone at St. John's Episcopal church so please take one home with you on the First Sunday of Advent so we can all reflect together the experience of waiting, "Waiting in Joyful Hope" is the name of the booklet and if you can place a couple of dollars in the basket I can reimburse the kitty and do this again next Season. On the back cover the editor says it is perfect for busy people who wish to enrich their personal prayer life during the seasons of Advent and Christmas. I know it will be the perfect thing to draw all of us closer to the heart of God, Jesus Christ our Lord.

On a personal note I want to thank all of you for your prayers for my left ear. I saw my Dr. last Tues and he told me to be patient. It is getting better and everyday I can sense it is but he hit it right on the head when he said I should be a "better" patient. It's just one of those things you can not see the results of so thank you for your patience with me. I will try harder to be a better patient!

Looking forward to the best Advent/Christmas season with our community of St. John's Episcopal Church. Great things are going to happen this year!

PS We will keep Daniel and Julie Peck in our prayers as well as Jane Millsap's family of Fr. Leland and Sheila Jones.

Love and Prayers, Always in Christ,  
Father Wayne+

The Rev. Canon Wayne F. Sanders +

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU



# WARDEN'S WORDS

Everyone has a different attitude about exercise, ranging from absolute disdain to unbridled enthusiasm. Mine is somewhere in between the two extremes, depending upon the weather and how dragged-out I am from the week's work. As I remember, the U.S. Army never cared about how I felt about either, I exercised anyway.

There is, however, one exercise that every member of St. John's church family can perform right now with minimal effort and maximum joy. Simply reach around and pat yourself on the back for a job well-done in 2007. And, if you are not too tired from that, clap your hands together and give yourself a round of applause for all that you have accomplished in God's presence. You are truly a great people.

Who else, with a little bit of God's inspiration, could transform a bare hall into a holy and inviting place of worship? Or, who else could bring forth such abundant fruit from our little "acre" of God's Kingdom; Advertising, Altar Guild, Coffee-hour, Communications, Finance, Flowers, Fundraising, Healing Ministry, Music, Outreach, Parish Life, Prayers & Squares, Sunday School, etc., etc., etc. The list is practically endless and you, using the resources God gave you, did it all!

Yes, you have had some setbacks. Yes, you recently had to give up your place of worship for a month. It was a small sacrifice, however, compared to the good that was accomplished at the Community Center in helping fire victims. So, take a moment amidst all of the holiday season activities which will soon beset you, and reflect with joy upon your work of the past year. Know also that Our Lord will refresh and restore your spirit with His gift of Advent and Christmas.

Faithfully, Dale New, Senior Warden



### EDITORIAL ON ADVENT

Many years ago I decided that if I were to grow into the person I would really like to be, I needed to accept each challenge that comes my way with a positive "YES" ! Having decided that, I have learned that there is pain involved in growth, things that maybe I don't want to learn about myself...BUT..coming out the other side is where the SON shines on me, at least for the moment.

I-you-we are in the ADVENT of our lives, so to speak. The time of waiting. What I-you-we do with that time is very important to us and to GOD. We live in the expectation of God's coming into the world.

I prepare for this coming by getting my house in order. I am like one of the three wise men as I start on my journey through the time of Advent to the miracle of the birth of Christ in my life.

I dwell on the figure of Mary. Mary, to me, epitomizes this time of expectation. Mary is the bridge between Advent and Christmas.

I have mourned and cried and beat myself as I have searched through the journeys of my ADVENTS to find that in time, eventually when it was possible for me to focus, this particular advent was over and Christ was born again within me...There is peace again until the next ADVENT of my journey, and again when the next unexpected experience hits, the question is "How can this be?" again.

My perception of the absence of God... That starts the journey inward of finding the answers (are there really answers, or only more questions). Yesterday I was fine...Today my world was turned upside down! What happened? As a Christian, I have always had a knowing sense inside me that God is a constant. I am not really alone, it is just my feelings and emotions that tell me I am here alone. ADVENT..

I believe that each one of us will be called upon at some time to explore the possibilities within. The process of finding that space within is one of perseverance. Shutting out all of the exterior noise in our lives. *Intentionally choosing* the sounds that will be heard in our head. It is a process once learned can be practiced at any time, any place. I am not always able to get out of my own way in a turmoil or conflict. I'm constantly working on being centered. It's not easy, but when I can accomplish it even once in the hard times, the hard time becomes less hard.

Hail Mary, God is with you! The true way I respond, "How can this be?" is to ask for help, and guidance from God. It's the human response to God's courtship of us. Each of us are able to say with Mary, "Behold, here I am, the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me." Very silently my answer is "YES" again! AMEN Jane

# Scoop

## A Treat for St. John's



Parishioners of St. John's are in for an inspiring treat on December 16, when the Reverend Canon Stephen Wendfeldt will preach and then lead a forum for us.

Fr. Steve is wonderfully down-to-earth in spite of his fancy title—Canon to the Ordinary for Mission Development--which, he explained, means that he is "just a plain old priest" in charge of helping all congregations of the Diocese to grow in health and to fulfill God's intentions for them.

Fr. Steve has an amazing record in this work, and although he is retired, our Bishop has asked him to return to help us through our recent hard times. He gives workshops in becoming a welcoming church and in leadership development, and recently visited with our vestry and offered to come and teach us without charge.

Vestry was moved and impressed by Fr. Steve's eloquent assurance that we are called to be Christ in the world, and God has nothing but success planned for us if we will continue to follow the Saviour.

Patty Campbell

*"The child to be born  
will be holy;  
he will be called  
Son of God."*



Luke 1:35, NRSV

**Have a  
Blessed  
Holiday Season**





## Christmas Wish

*What do I wish for you this  
Christmas?*

*Not something you'll find in a  
store;  
but gifts that will live in your  
heart.*

*When the holly's gone from your  
door,*

*I wish you the gift of true friend  
ship, as warm as holiday  
cheer,*

*The kind that will bring your  
heart joy*

*Each day of the coming year.*

*I wish you the gift of good health,  
good fortune in all that you  
do*

*I wish you a prayer time each  
day,*

*your spirit to ever renew.*

*What do I wish for you this  
Christmas?*

*More precious than this set  
apart—I wish you the gift of the  
Christ Child,  
living each day in your heart.*

*Kay Hoffman*

## AROUND AND ABOUT

The annual pledge letter has been sent out and there have been a few returned already. Way to go St. John's. Keep em coming!!!

A Sunday School outing of 25 children and adults from St. John's will be attending the performance of "Scrooge" this Sunday at the Mission Theatre in Fallbrook.

The Diocesan Convention will be held this year on February 8th and 9th in Palm Springs. **Patty Campbell** and **Jane Millsap** will be the official delegates.

Mark your calendar for the Christmas Smorgasbord (meaning bring your favorite dish), at St. John's (Community Center) on Sunday December 23rd hosted by **Janet Watson**. You will be getting a call, if you just can't wait for her call....then call her.

**Carol Pearson** left Thursday, Nov. 29th for Minnesota. Her cousin was killed in an auto accident. Keep her in your prayers,

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday February 17 while the **Bishop** is visiting.

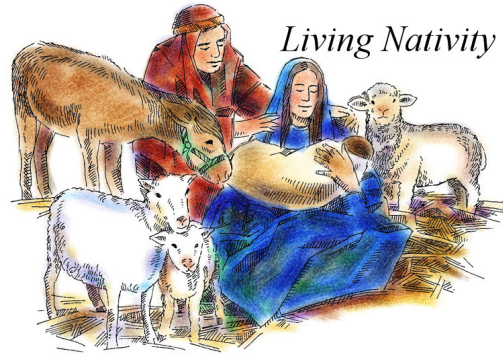
### "CHRISTMAS WITH THE CHORALE"

The San Luis Rey Chorale & Orchestra will have it's **LAST** Christmas Concert and Candlelight Procession on Sunday, December 2 and 7, at 7:00pm and Monday, December 17 at 7:00pm in Fallbrook at the Lighthouse Christian Church 4700 Mesa Dr. Oceanside Call 760-724-8781 for more information.

At Trinity Episcopal church in Escondido on February 7th there will be a workshop on "Gifts We Have To Offer" More information at a later date.

“There is such richness and goodness in the Nativity that if we should see and deeply understand, we should be dissolved in perpetual joy.”

Martin Luther



*Living Nativity*

*Pure Joy*

## DECEMBER 2007 LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

Date	1 <sup>st</sup> Lesson	Psalm	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lesson	LEM
Dec. 2	Gail Jones Isaiah 2:1-5	Gail Jones Psalm 122	Jane Millsap Romans 13:8-14	Jane Millsap
Dec. 9	Dale New Isaiah 11: 1-10	Dale New Psalm 72:1-8	Franya Sidoroff Romans 15:4-13	Dale New
Dec. 16	Rebecca Brown Isaiah 35:1-10	Rebecca Psalm 146	Patty Campbell James 5: 7-10	Tyler Pearson
Dec.23	Patty Campbell Isaiah 7:10-17	Patty Cmapbell Psalm 24:1-7	Rebecca Brown Romans 1: 1-7	Jane Millsap
Dec. 30.	Gail Jones Isaiah 61:10-62:3	Gail Jones Psalm 147	Frankie Schwenderman Galatians 3:23-25 4:4-7	Keith Goard

**Prayers of the people are led by the 2nd Reader**

## “WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIVE”

**December 5th –**

**6:30pm–8pm**

**St. Peter’s Catholic Church  
In The Community Room**

Because of the fires vestry has decided to postpone the next Wednesday Night Live until December 5. On that night we'll meet at St. Peter's at 6:30 for soup and salad, and then continue with our study of healing prayer and the healing miracles of Jesus. Patty Campbell will lead the discussion .

I think it is important to end on time at 8pm so however far we have gotten with the lessons we will close with a prayer and thank everyone for their sharing of the Word, something we do not usually do on Sunday in our tradition.

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP. Fr. Wayne

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### Signs and wonders



Sign outside Covenant Church, York, PA

“May Jesus be your Christmas presence.”

“Oh come all ye faithful—and anyone else.”

Sign outside St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbus TX.

“Aspire to inspire before you expire.”

A Washington Politician replaced a “Keep Smiling” sign on his desk, with a sign that reads, “Keep Smiling Anyhow.”

**A Smile....**

- increases your face value.
- is a little curve that can straighten out lot of things.
- is the shortest distance between two people.



### *Altar Flowers*

Pam and I want to thank each and every one of you that have signed-up to bring flowers.

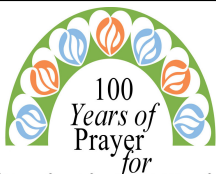
Now is the time to sign up for **Christmas Poinsettias** . Also there are three other Sundays in December that need to be covered. The sign-up sheet is on the Greeters table.

Thank you very much and God bless you!

**Kathy Witkoff & Pam Stephens**  
Altar Guild



## Poinsettias



### ***“Celebrating 100 Years of Prayer for Christian Unity”***

#### **Christian Unity**

*On Thursday, January 24th, 2008, at 6:30 pm, we will join in a potluck with the parishioners of St. Peter’s Catholic church in their community room as an observation of Christian unity week. Members of St. Peter’s will conduct the opening prayer, and after the meal our senior warden, Dale New will explain who we are at St. John’s . We then will all join together in celebrating Compline (evening service).*



The Season of Christmas giving is once again almost here!

- It is appropriate to talk to the parents, grandparents and friends of children about buying safe and appropriate toys for the children you love.
- Every year many children are treated in Emergency Rooms for toy related injuries.
- These are some of the suggestions the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Safe Kids Campaign and A.R.P. offer:

Age Appropriate Toys

- Read the labels that tell what age the child should be to safely use a toy, and whether adult supervision is needed. Remember that toys given to older siblings could be dangerous in the hands of younger ones.

Think Big

- Small toys or those with small parts can become choking hazards. Be sure the toys you give are well constructed, as small parts that can easily come off can also be a problem.

Avoid Cords and Strings

- Toys with cords can become wrapped around a young child's neck and lead to strangulation.

Beware of Sharp Points and Edges

- Toys with glass or metal parts and those made of fragile plastic can cause serious cuts.

Avoid Toys With Flying Objects

- These can hit children in the eyes or head.

Watch for Poisonous Ingredients

- Read labels to be sure they say nontoxic. Be sure that hobby and chemistry sets are age appropriate.

Check for "U.L. Approved" on electric Toys

Encourage Safety

- If you give sport toys such as skates and bicycles, provide safety gear as well. These can prevent injury.

Remember these simple tips can make for a safer, merrier holiday season. May your Christmas be a joyful and blessed one, as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Yours in Christ

Dianne Pollett, R.N. Parish Nurse, St. Mary's-in-the-Valley, Ramona



## **STUFF OR TREASURE**

We all tend to get scatterbrained in emergencies, so here's a list to help with those important few minutes before you have to leave next time. Pencil in the locations of these items, tape the list up on the inside of a kitchen cupboard, and point it out to family members and house-sitters.

## **EVACUATION LIST**

In the following order of importance, save:

**Pets.** Have *plastic* carriers for each of your cats, not cardboard. Remember to take pet's food and dishes and the dog's leash.

**Family photos**

**Insurance policy, will, and deed to your house (or preferably keep these in a safety deposit box at the bank. Fireproof boxes aren't)**

**Computer, but only if you use it for business or important records (never mind the keyboard and printer)**

**House plans, if you would want the same house rebuilt**

**Prescription medicines and eyeglasses**

**Income tax documents for the current year (keep them all together in a folder or box)**

**Address book**

**Valuable jewelry**

**Jacket and a change of clothes for each person**

**Art and family heirlooms – but only the most precious (itemize and prioritize, in case you're not the one evacuating)**

**THEN GET OUT! THINGS ARE NOT WORTH YOUR LIFE!**



## Birthdays of the Month

**St. John's celebrates with you on your birth.**

Look with favor we pray, on your servants

Marion New            6th

David New             23rd

as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN

**COGRATULATIONS TO YOU BOTH**

### **Prayers & Squares**

Quilts are provided at the request of parishioners who have family or friends in need of prayer. Once completed, the quilts are displayed and parishioners are asked to stop by and say a prayer for the person for whom the quilt was made, and tie a knot. Once the quilt has been tied I am recommending the parishioner that requested the quilt make the delivery arrangements.

Request forms will be available on Sunday after the 11:00 a.m. service, or call me, or email your request ([mmazy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mmazy@sbcglobal.net))

Mary Mazy

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***God loves each one of us as if there was only one of us to love.***

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The Rev. Canon Wayne F. Sanders  
Priest in Charge  
Altar Guild—Pam Stevens &  
Kathy Witkoff  
Choir—Kathy Wood  
Christian Education—Steve Wood  
Clerk—Patty Campbell  
Cursillo—Kathy Wood  
Daughters of the King—Kathy Wood  
Directory—Mary Mazy  
Healing—Patty Campbell, Kathy Sanders,  
Jane Millsap, Kathy Wood  
Hospitality—Susan Ortler  
Internal Communications—Gail Jones  
Liturgy & Music—Keith Goard &  
Kathy Wood  
Newsletter—Jane Millsap, Janet Watson  
Outreach—Bob Watson—Peggy Johnson  
Parish Life—Peggy Johnson, Bob Watson  
Pastoral Care—Bob & Janet Watson  
Phone Tree—Gail Jones  
Prayer List—Patty Campbell  
Prayers & Squares—Mary Mazy  
Treasurer—Carol Pearson  
Website—Rick Barclay  
Youth—Keith Goard

Place Stamp  
HERE

Place Address Label

**St. John's Episcopal Church services meet at the  
Fallbrook Community Auditorium at 11:00am**

Visit our web site where there  
are schedules and much more  
information at  
[www.stjohnsepiscopalfallbrook.com](http://www.stjohnsepiscopalfallbrook.com).