

"The Ark"

St. John's Episcopal Church
Fallbrook, California
January 2010



Dear People of God at St. John's Episcopal Church,

I guess this is as good a time as any to reminisce a little. As I write my first humble article for the ARK in 2010 I am still in awe of the journey we have had together since I joined you in your exile. I remember all of us saying to one another in various ways: "It's OK, we are going to make it somehow." And O how nice it was to be at our Host Parish that took us in, literally, to join with them in their similar situation but with their property. I think we all have fond memories of all that we did and became at All Saints' Vista. Being with Fr. Richard Lief a dear friend and new friend Fr. Leigh Jacobson and finally Fr. Michael Khaer and the friends we all made there was a lot of comfort. To a great extent we all grew spiritually, as well as having a tremendous learning experience for everyone of us.

I would like to suggest that we have a little sharing time in a couple of week, lets say Sunday Jan 17th after our Holy Eucharist to do some Holy Listening to each other at coffee hour. Pointing out the positive things we remember that happened on our way back to St. John's. If you are fairly new this might give you a little better feeling of our recent and history and hopefully bring you on board even more so. That would be my hope but if you choose not to come and share that's fine too.. We all have moved on for the better but sometimes it's good to look back and see where we have been to appreciate where we are going and the Vision our faith Community has for the future. In either case everyone will be welcome to join us even if you never left the property.

This Epiphany season is a good time to reflect about our Vision and how we are going to implement it this year and all the following. The great Philosopher Soren Kierkegaard once suggested that these first steps are not easy for us because we often think that if a person is not perfect or if they have changed for the worse, we are exempted from loving and reaching out to them. Epiphany's vision invites us to love the person we see, to find them loveable even with their

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weaknesses, faults and imperfections. Kierkegaard reminded his readers of Jesus' love for Peter, who denied him mightily. Jesus didn't say, "Peter, you must first change and become a better man before I can love you again." No he said just the opposite: "Peter, you are Peter and I love you." Christ did not sever their friendship and renew it again after Peter had repented: rather, he maintained the friendship and in that way enabled Peter to become his better self. This is how Jesus loves, and it is Jesus' perspective and way of loving that believers are called to make their own.

Let's all have a Blessed and healthy New Year together!

Always in Christ, Father Wayne+
The Rev. Canon Wayne F. Sanders +

Words To Start The New Year

"Purpose and laughter are the
twins that must not separate.
Each is empty without the other."
Robt. K Greenleaf

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with
your neighbors, and let every New Year
find you a better person."
Benjamin Franklin

"Three daily reminders: Have the
courage to say no. Have the courage
to face the truth. Have the courage to
do the right thing because it is right.
Mark Twain

A New Year's prayer:
May we live in a home at peace
and in a world at peace, with
the awareness of every baby's
smile, the, the beauty in every
sunrise and sunset, every
flower's unfolding petals, and
every wonderful, miraculous
beat of our heart. May we be
blessed with every joy, good
health, and the love of God in
our hearts in 2010.

Author unknown

CHRISTMAS AT SEA

It has always been our dream to get away on a cruise for Christmas. When I talked with my brother Ernie who lives in Montreal, Canada and he said he would love to join us, it was a done deal. We booked the Carnival, Elation Cruise, from Dec 22-26, with two stops on Catalina Island (where Melinda grew up when she was young) and Ensenada, Mexico. Then I realized that I could offer my services to celebrate Midnight Mass, as there is no chaplain on the vessel. Through my booking agent, I offered my services and the cruise company got back to me, telling me that they would be delighted if I were to hold a Midnight Service in their Main Ballroom. They asked me to bring all the liturgical vestments, hosts, chalice which was not a problem.

Being with Ernie again was a delight and getting ready for the sail was uplifting at this very special time of year. We were with you all for the Gala Sunday before we left which was the start of our Celebrations.

Somehow, I started to receive positive vibes from the Elation that they were looking forward to Midnight Mass in a very special way. More and more I took the challenge that this was an opportunity to reach out to people, many who were unChurched, and through a Liturgical Service, bring them to a moment of liturgical encounter with the Prince-of-Peace, born to us in the Bethlehem Manger. On the first two days at sea, the 23rd and 24th we anxiously talked about how many people would be at the Service, would we be disappointed, how many hosts would we prepare. We looked over the main Ballroom that had 1,000 comfortable seats, a balcony and lovely stage. Over and over again the Cruise Director announced the event. We heard people talking about coming to Mass at Midnight, and, except for a deck party, there were no other activities scheduled.

Melinda and Ernie and I went to the Ballroom at 11:15 to set everything up and many people were already there. We knew that the Lord had planned something special for us. We had chosen all the music and hymns and the audio control person. Jesse. was there and ready to help. The Cruise Director Steve and his Assistant Nooreje were there to greet us, had flowers for the altar and all was in place.

As we started Mass at Midnight, I looked up and from one end of the beautiful sparkling room to the other... there were people in most of the seats. There were families, crew members, singles and couples. People seemed to come from everywhere, speak different languages, were young and older...I have always believed that a congregation makes it's pastor. I often say: "Every priest in a marvelous preacher on Christmas!" People make the Church!! My main message was very simple: This Holy Night we celebrate God-Coming- to-Us. (Emmanuel) Receive Him! Reach out to Him! Carry him in your Hearts forever! People responded to the invitation. We were four distributing Holy Communion for a long period of time. People were touched by the Grace of God. The following day, crew members, waiters, fellow passengers came to us and told us how this Sacred Experience had been such a touching moment for them. Even though you had celebrated hours earlier at St. John's, we were united with you and carried you in our hearts that Holy Night. May we all continue to grow in our love for Christ and Melinda and Anthony join me in thanking you all for encouraging and supporting us as we all deepen our Eucharistic Experience of Christ..

Happy, Healthy New Year. Malcolm Smith

CHRISTMAS DAY

Tim O'Leary

This Advent and Christmas have reminded me what St. John's – and all that I've learned and the friends I've made there – mean to me.

I find myself alone on Christmas. My wife is in Oregon visiting her son. My own son is with his mother. They will leave later today to pick up her father, my son's grandfather, from the airport. I plan to telephone my father and stepmother momentarily in Texas, and then head north to Temecula.

There I plan to spend several hours at the 15th annual Temecula Christmas Dinner, a free sit-down dinner that provides food and holiday cheer to all who come. The cadre of volunteers, Temecula Rotary Club and anonymous donors served more than 1,500 people last year. They are expecting an increase of 10 percent or more this year.

I think it will be a good place for a humble storyteller to feel the spirit of giving, of sharing, of serving. I think I will learn much there from those who have plenty, those who have little and those who are alone on this most holy day.

I shall go there filled with the love, laughter and lessons that I have extracted from St. John's over the recent Advent and Christmas seasons. There are many, and they are etched in my heart. And they have shown me that we all – perhaps in just a tiny way like my efforts have been – help sustain this special place that traces its birth back to 1891.

My thoughts go first to a quiet conversation I had with Stan Nagle, my dear, new friend. It was Stan who reminded me how our little church and its caring people can help heal our deep hurts and help us find our way back to God.

My thoughts next flow to Don Corbett, who visited us Nov. 29 to help mark the silver anniversary of our beloved organ, which the manufacturer dubbed its "Opus 91." Don has a deep connection to our church even though he lives in Oregon now.

Don was our church's organist before the instrument was envisioned or purchased. It was designed to his specifications, and upon installation was named the Robert E. Noll Memorial Organ.

Over his 26 years as St. John's organist, Corbett played during countless church services, weddings, funerals and other functions. Among them – although it has faded into the woodwork of his memory – was my marriage to Margaret.

Don's return – and that of his darling wife, Jacqueline – was a special moment for our church. It was a homecoming for him, and it also reflected our own homecoming some seven months earlier. It also seemed to be a special moment for the Corbetts, who were treated like prodigal brethren returned to the fold.

I sensed, though, it was a bittersweet moment for them both.

"He sure misses that organ," Jacqueline shared with me as we sipped coffee together after the service and closing performance.

Thoughts of a homecoming were echoed by Father Sanders at our heartwarming Christmas Eve service. Pink clouds streaked the sky as I rang our bell to help begin our worship. More than 100 of us – adults and children – listened as Father Sanders noted that it was our first Christmas service there since we were "exiled" from our Iowa Street home for three years.

Ten children dressed as newsboys and angels and shepherds joyously lifted our spirits with songs of Jesus' birth and the salvation that he brought to the world.

Our 12 remarkable stained-glass windows – which were lovingly donated and each day splash God's glow across our sanctuary – seemed to reflect light inward upon us this Christmas Eve.

Father Sanders reminded us that Christmas is not about presents. It's about His presence in our lives. Father Sanders told us of the need to "give that gift" to each other and our communities.

"Not just today, but every day of our lives," he said.

I rang our bell as Father Sanders exited the church to, one by one, thank everyone for coming. We all said our goodbyes, and those in our extended church family began to dart off to festivities and other holiday observations or obligations.

And now the sun is climbing on this Christmas day and it's time to finish my coffee, call my dad and point my pickup toward Temecula.

When I called several days ago, a recorded message said that no more volunteers were needed for the community Christmas dinner. I pray that I can find something to do there – a dish to wash or a mop to waltz across a food-splattered floor. I pray also that I can share some of St. John's spirit there.

May the peace, joy and love of this Christmas season be with you always.

COME ON DOWN!!

It's happening—it's real—NOW—
the LAST Saturday of the month.

Morning at 7am at church.

FOR MEN—BY MEN

A hearty breakfast and great companionship with those you know slightly—and now have an opportunity to know much better in fun.

JOIN US AND EAT TOO!



Men's Breakfast
Last Saturday
Of each Month

"Living As A Christian"

While reading for Advent last month I was struck by this passage from the works of Henri Nouwen, one of the greatest modern Christian writers, in which he talks about a vision of a new heaven and a new earth and our obligation as followers of Jesus to strive for that goal, an idea that echoes 2 Peter:

"You are Christian only so long as you look forward to a new world, so long as you constantly pose critical questions to the society you live in, so long as you emphasize the need of conversion both for yourself and for the world, so long as you stay unsatisfied with the status quo and keep saying that a new world is yet to come in the realization of this new kingdom, and when you urge everyone you meet with a holy unrest to make haste so that the promise might soon be fulfilled. So long as you live as a Christian you keep looking for a new order, a new structure, a new life." --Henri Nouwen

In accordance with God's promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish. --2 Peter 3:13-14

For many other inspiring words from Henri Nouwen, take a look at that section in your church library.

--Patty Campbell

JANUARY'S DOINGS AT ST. JOHN'S

Wednesday, January 6th—Rev. Malcolm Smith

4pm The Epiphany— Healing Eucharist
5pm Bible Study

Sunday, January 10th—Fr. Sanders Celebrant

9 am Adult Sunday School
10am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School

Wednesday, January 13th—Fr. Sanders

4pm Healing Eucharist
5pm Bible Study

Sunday, January 17th—Fr. Sanders, Celebrant

9 am Adult Sunday School
10am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School
“Reminiscing Get Together” after Church

Wednesday, January 20th—Fr. Sanders

4pm Healing Eucharist
5pm Bible Study

Sunday, January 24th—Fr. Sanders, Celebrant

9 am Adult Sunday School
10am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School

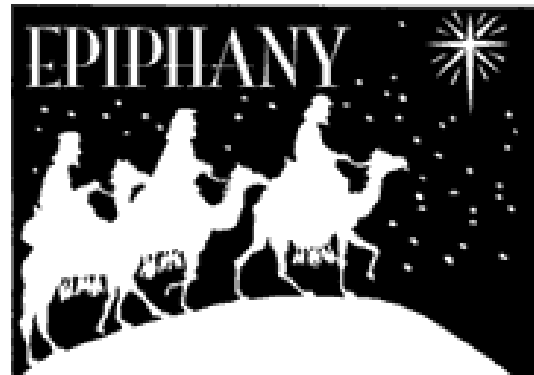
Wednesday, January 27th—Fr. Sanders

4pm Healing Eucharist
5pm Bible Study

Sunday, January 31st—Fr. Sanders, Celebrant

Designated CURSILLO Sunday—See Page 13

9 am Adult Sunday School
10am Holy Eucharist and Sunday School



THE EPIPHANY Jan. 6th

The arrival of the magi. The revealing of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi

Also called the Twelfth Day

Episcopal Diocese of San Diego
 36TH ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONVENTION
 First United Methodist Church of San Diego
 February 12 & 13, 2010

Notice is hereby given that the 36th Annual Convention of the Diocese of San Diego will be held at First United Methodist Church in Mission Valley , San Diego .

All people of the diocese are invited to attend Convention,
 particularly the gala dinner on Friday evening,
 the festive Eucharist on Saturday morning
 and the Bishop's Address on Saturday afternoon.

During the gala dinner, we will hear from the world renowned speaker, Brian McLaren. Bishop Mathes will honor outstanding service award recipients from around the diocese. The ever-popular diocesan slideshow capturing peak moments throughout the year will entertain dinner attendees as well.

Saturday's Eucharist will crown the Convention activities and this year's choir is composed of choristers from around the diocese.

Attending the Eucharist is a wonderful way to experience the spiritual unity of our diocesan family. Bishop Mathes' address reports on the progress we have made as a diocese during the past year and invites us to collectively look to the future.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Order of Business

Friday, February 12

12:00 – 5:00 p.m.	<i>Vendors & Ministry Displays</i>
Noon. – 4:00 p.m.	Registration
12:30 – 1:45 p.m.	MINISTRY Work SHOPS: Session I
2:00 – 3:15 p.m.	MINISTRY WORKSHOPS: Session 2
3:30 – 5:00 p.m.	CONVENTION CONVENES FOR OPENING BUSINESS
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Visit vendors and ministry displays and transition to Crowne Plaza

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- 5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Reception, Crowne Plaza
6:15 p.m. Doors Open for Dinner
6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Dinner, Keynote Address
and Closing Prayer at the Crowne Plaza

Saturday, February 13

- 8:00 5:00 p.m. *Vendors & Ministry Displays open all day*
8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Registration
9:00 - 10:15 a.m. **GENERAL SESSION with Brian McLaren**
10:15 - 10:30 a.m. Break
10:30 - 12:00 p.m. **CONVENTION EUCHARIST**
12:00 -1:00p.m. Lunch
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. **CONVENTION RECONVENES FOR BUSINESS**

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF SANDIEGO is located at
2111 Camino del Rio South, San Diego

Brian McLaren, world renowned speaker and author will deliver a keynote address during the gala dinner. He will focus his remarks on 21st century evangelism, encouraging listeners to think in new ways about this oft-misunderstood topic. His presence with us molded our theme “More Ready Than You Realize: Discovering God’s Mission in the World”

I look forward to being with you at our Diocesan Convention. It will be a family reunion—a time of new life and celebration.

Faithfully,

James R. Mathes

The Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes,
Bishop

ABOUT ST. JOHN'S FAMILY



Our Sunday school teacher, **Steve Wood**, has been selected "Teacher of the Year" for Cottonwood School in Aguanga. Steve teaches fifth grade and directs the fifth grade camp for his school. This is the second time in ten years that Steve has received this accolade from the Hemet School District. (2001, also) **Congratulations, Steve!**

Carol Pearson received this communication from the Dorcas House in Mexico:

"Hola Colin

Sending pictures of the card's that the youth group from St. Johns made for the kid's
t they love them . Sylvia "

Jane Millsap and her husband Penrhyn returned from New Zealand and Australia on December 3rd, after nearly a month long trip. She said it was a beautiful trip even though it was exhausting. They traveled by boat, by plane, by rail, by Gondola over the tops of the mountains, and by crocodile boat. Also out to the Great Barrier Reef. What a trip, never to be repeated.

Warden's Words

How beautiful our church looked for Christmas Eve! Gorgeous poinsettias, thanks to the Arthur Brown family, a lovely natural tree, and over one hundred people in the congregation... This was the best Christmas gift! The children's program was delightful, and the music was brilliant. What a glorious time! We all felt His presence in our midst.

Now we are ready to go into 2010, to do the work the Lord has given us to do, to further His wishes to continue to grow our church in the new year. We will have a new senior warden and three new Vestry members.

Kathy Wood, Senior Warden

A GRANDMOTHER'S EXPERIENCE

She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye..

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"



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

Look with favor we pray, on your servants

Janet Watson	1st
Jim Massman	1st
Wade Pearson	19th
Ron Province	26th
Penrhyn Millsap	30th

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

ANNIVERSARIES

Gail & Steve Jones—15th Ken & Peggy Johnson—21st Carol & Larry Pearson –22nd
May the love that began these relationships continue to be nurtured by Almighty God

AL-ANON MEETING WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

There is a one hour, 12 step support group for people whose lives have been touched by alcoholism or addiction.

All are welcome to come to St. John's Episcopal Church at 434 Iowa Street. If you have questions come and check it out. Or you can call Jan Massman at 760-451-1667.

St. John's has graciously hosted Al-Anon for at least 10 years, sometimes as many as many as 3 meetings a week.

St. John's Thrift Shop

This has been quite a year for the Thrift Shop. It has been a challenge and a blessing. As you know, we were able to take back control last April. The transition went rather smoothly due to all of our dedicated volunteers.

Unfortunately we had been left with a large debt, so the first few months we were scrambling to reorganize and get caught up. With GODS blessing not only did we manage to get the debts paid but have been able to gift money back into our community. THAT is our goal.

The only problem we face now is absentees of volunteers due to injuries, or other personal issues. Although we know they will return eventually , we are in need of more volunteers.

Everyone who works there say how much fun it is. We all get along splendidly, and it's a great way to get to know people in our community. We do fun things throughout the year. Had a wonderful Christmas party and planning something fun for spring. Come and join us. It's just a 3hour shift either mornings. or afternoons. (one day a week) We especially need help on Wednesdays and Fridays.

This is a wonderful way to serve GOD, have some fun and help our community. So if you can help or know someone who can, please contact either **Nelson Hawley** @1-760-728-8896 or **Kathy Cambell** our manager at the shop 1-760-723-9520.

Watch the Village News for pictures. of our donations to places like the "Food Pantry", Reins, Navy Relief for wives etc. Being able to be part of that ministry fills me with such joy, to be allowed to witness Gods goodness. My deepest gratitude goes to all our helpers who have made it possible to continue on our path.

I look forward to 2010, and am anxious to see where GOD directs us. We ask for His blessings and your prayers and help that we can continue.

Hope to see you there.

Frankie Schwenderman

P. S. Donations from home and bags are always needed. Thanks.

CURSILLO SUNDAY DESIGNATED JANUARY 31st

Our 2009 Diocesan Convention passed a resolution designating one Sunday each year as Cursillo Sunday.

After consulting with our Cursillo Secretariat, **Bishop Mathes** designated January 31, 2010, as our first annual Cursillo Sunday.

This is an apt day to celebrate the spiritual development that occurs in the lives of those who participate in Cursillo. The readings for the day include Paul's epistle of love, "And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love." Cursillo is an experience that builds faith, instills hope and mentors love.

The purpose of Cursillo Sunday is to raise awareness of this spiritual weekend. To that end, congregations are encouraged to invite people who have experienced Cursillo to speak briefly in church and to feature table displays with information and applications for the three day weekend at Camp Stevens. Photos and music from past Cursillos may enhance the day as well.

"I trust that you will embrace this day as one of celebration for, and education, about, a movement that has infused vitality into the spiritual lives of faithful Christians for more than half a century," said the **Rt. Rev. James R. Mathes**.

If anyone would like to know more about this weekend advance (retreat) you can speak to one of the people in the congregation that have attended like:

Fr. Sanders

Kathy Sanders

Kathy Wood

Steve Wood

Keith Goard

Jane Millsap

Peggy Johnson

Any one of them would be happy to tell you about the weekend.

JANUARY 2010

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE YEAR C

<u>Date</u>	<u>1st Lesson</u>	<u>2nd Lesson</u>	<u>Gospel</u>	<u>LEM</u>
Jan. 3	Dale New Jeremiah 31:7-14	Keith Goard Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19	Luke 2:41-52	Dale New Frankie S.
Jan. 10	Marcia Pick Isaiah 43: 1-7	Gail Jones Acts 8:14-17	Luke 3:15-17	Kathy Wood Jane M.
Jan. 17	Frankie Schwenderman Isaiah 62:1-5.	Jim Pick 1 Corinthians 12:1-11	John 2: 1-11	Frankie. S. Keith Goard
Jan. 24	Frayna Sidoroff Nehemiah 8:1-8	Patty Campbell 1 Corinthians 12:12-31	John 21: 19-24	Dale New Kathy Wood
Jan. 31	Rebecca Brown Jeremiah 1: 4-10	Margaret O'Leary 1 Corinthians 13:1-13	Luke 4:21-30	Jane M. Keith Goard

Prayers of the people are led by the 2nd reader from their seat.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Ushers</u>	<u>Oblations</u>	<u>Acolytes</u>
Jan. 3			Marion New Gail Jones	Wm. Sumner Alexander Brown
Jan. 10			Amy Burchard Aspen Burchard	Sara Pearson Consuelo Regalado
Jan. 17			Janet Watson Susan Ortler	Sydney Nocon Devon Nocon
Jan. 24			Norma Wilshire Anita Province	Wm. Sumner Dale New
Jan. 31			Lois Nikodym Barbara Stevenson	Wm. Sumner Alexander Brown

JANUARY 2010

OTHER VOLUNTEER SCHEDULES

WHO IS IN THE OFFICE?			Date	Healing Prayer	Lock-Up Church
Mondays	Victor Baker	728-6059	Jan. 3	Patty Campbell	Carol Pearson
Tuesdays	Amy Burchard	728-0477		Jane Millsap	
Wednesdays	Kathy Wood	728-4542	Jan. 10	Patty Campbell	Steve Jones
Thursdays	M. & T. O'Leary'	451-0062		Frankie Schwenderman	
Fridays	Charlotte McCutchen	645-3552	Jan. 17	Kathy Wood	Victor Baker
Substitutes on call:	Janet Watson	723-1446		Patty Campbell	
	Anita Province	723-0713	Jan. 24	Kathy Wood	Kathy Wood
	Patty Campbell	723-6184		Frankie Schwenderman	
			Jan 31	Kathy Sanders	Patty Campbell
				Patty Campbell	

REFER TO KATHY WOODS SCHEDULE

"Believe while others are doubting,
 "Work while others are wishing,
 "Save while others are wasting,
 "Listen while others are talking,
 "Smile while others are frowning,
 "Commend while others are criticizing,
 "Persist while others are quitting."

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

St. John's Episcopal Church
 434 Iowa St. Fallbrook, CA 92088
 Phone 1-760 728-2908
 E-mail—stjohnsfallbrook.@att.net
 The Rev. Canon Wayne F. Sanders
 Priest in Charge

Altar Guild—Pam Stephens
 Choir—Kathy Wood & Kathy Sanders
 Christian Education—Steve Wood
 Clerk—Patty Campbell
 Cursillo—Kathy Wood
 Daughters of the King—Kathy Wood
 Directory—Anita Province-Jane Millsap
 Healing—Patty Campbell , Kathy Sanders,
 Jane Millsap, Kathy Wood
 Hospitality—Susan Ortler
 Communications—Gail Jones & Patty
 Campbell
 Liturgy & Music—Keith Goard ,
 Kathy Wood & Kathy Sanders
 Newsletter—Jane Millsap, Editor Janet
 Watson, Tim O'Leary & Patty Campbell
 Outreach—Bob Watson—Peggy Johnson
 Parish Life—Peggy Johnson, M. O'Leary
 Pastoral Care—Bob & Janet Watson
 Phone Tree—Gail Jones
 Planning—Arthur Brown & Dale New
 Prayer List—Patty Campbell
 Prayers & Squares—Mary Mazy
 Sunday School—Steve Wood
 Treasurer—Carol Pearson
 Website—Rick Barclay
 Youth—Keith Goard

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. John's Episcopal Church is to be the Good News of Christ Jesus in the world by welcoming and nurturing all as we celebrate God's love.

VISION STATEMENT

We are committed to welcoming, teaching, and inspiring others with the Good News of Christ. . We strive to restore people to unity with God and each other in Jesus Christ, by equipping God's people for ministry and caring for God's world.