



*To love the Lord God above all,  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and to live out our Baptismal covenant  
so that we build a community transformed by the love of  
Jesus Christ.*

## *From the Rector*

As this issue of *The Chronicle* reaches homes, we begin Advent, the first season of the new year in the Church's calendar.

More than any other season, our observance of Advent is at odds with the wider culture we live in. Once Thanksgiving ends, our culture is fully engrossed with Christmas: nonstop songs on the radio, shopping for gifts. Then, after Christmas Day, the decorations come down, Christmas trees go to the woodchipper and we trudge to stores to return the things that didn't fit and pick up some amazing sales.

Advent is nothing like this. Instead of a growing frenzy of social obligations, shopping and celebration, Advent is a time of restraint and contemplation. We begin Advent this year on December 3, remembering Christ's promise to return in glory. We remember John the Baptist, who shouted in the wilderness, *Prepare the way for the Lord; make his paths straight*. Then, with growing joy and hope, we turn to Mary and Joseph and their call to receive and nurture the Christ Child.

Unlike our cultural observance leading up to Christmas, Advent is slow, contemplative, watchful and holy.

In a culture like ours that makes December frantic, it's almost impossible to simultaneously observe a watchful Advent. I hope that you find time this Advent to wait with Christ. Even if it's only a few moments a day, find time to look ahead for the return of Christ in his glory and for John the Baptist, who came to witness concerning the light, so that through him everyone would believe in the light. Look ahead for the

family who found shelter in the barn because there wasn't any room inside and for the joy that came into the world that first Christmas, which we will experience anew this year, like every year.

Christmas is a season, not just a day in the calendar. Beginning on Christmas Day, Christmas is twelve days long and culminates with the Epiphany on January 6. We will mark the entire season of Christmas at St. John's, beginning with our Christmas services on December 24 and 25 and ending with a Eucharist and fiesta on the eve of the Epiphany, January 5.

Again, our culture's expectations and our observance of the season are out of sync. Our culture moves on December 26, while the church's party is only just getting started. I hope you continue rejoicing in the birth of Christ for the fullness of Christmastide, and I look forward to celebrating the twelve days with all of you at St. John's.

May Advent watchfulness lead to Christmas joy, for you, your family, our community and the world.

### **2018 Pledge Campaign Update**

Our pledge campaign will conclude December 3, with an ingathering at each of our three Sunday Eucharist's (8 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.). If you haven't received a pledge card, please contact the church office and we will make sure one is sent to you.

Thank you for your support of the ministries here at St. John's and for being part of this remarkable community!

Dec. 2017-Jan. 2018

St. John's Episcopal Church

# The Chronicle

## Artículos en Español y Inglés

### Advent Craft Party

By Padre Don

On **Sunday, December 3**, there will be a family Advent Event after the Spanish mass at 6 p.m. We will be making Yule Logs, and all are invited to come. The Yule Log is similar to an Advent Wreath and has four candles on a decorated log to mark the Sundays of the season.

Logs and candles will be supplied. Anyone who has an industrial stapler (the kind used for insulation) is invited to bring it. Clippers would also be useful, as would evergreen boughs and ribbon to be used as decoration. Plan now to come and have fun preparing for the Advent and Christmas seasons.

### Fiesta de Adviento

**El domingo 3 de diciembre**, habrá un Evento de Adviento familiar después de la misa en español de las 6 p.m. Haremos Troncos de Adviento, y todos están invitados a venir. El tronco de Adviento es similar a una corona de Adviento, tiene cuatro velas en un tronco decorado para marcar los domingos de la temporada.

Los troncos y las velas serán suministrados. Cualquier persona que tenga una engrapadora industrial (del tipo que se usa para aislamiento) está invitada a traerla. Los clips también son útiles, al igual que las ramas de hojas verdes perennes y cinta para decorar. Planee ahora venir y divertirse preparándose para las temporadas de Adviento y Navidad.

### Guadalupe Event set for Monday, December 11 with Mariachi Mass

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe presides over the Día de los Muertos altar, where members of St. John's/San Juan (and even Sonoro concert-goers) left names of departed loved ones which were read at the festive All Saints/All Souls mass.

Everyone is invited to participate in another celebration on **December 11**, when Fiesta Mexicana will once again play for a **6 p.m.** mariachi mass to celebrate the **Feast of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**. The misa will be followed by a fiesta dinner in the parish hall.

Padre Don Maddux will explain the significance of the vision of the Madonna as a Mexican mother in the development of the Church in Mexico at the **9:15 a.m. Sunday Forum on December 10**.

### Evento Guadalupe Programado para el Lunes, 11 de Diciembre con Mariachi Mass

Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe preside el altar del Día de los Muertos, donde los miembros de San Juan (e incluso los asistentes al concierto de Sonora) dejaron los nombres de los seres queridos fallecidos que se leyeron en la misa festiva de Todos los Santos / Todas las Almas.

Todos están invitados a participar en otra celebración el **11 de diciembre**, cuando Fiesta Mexicana volverá a acompañar a las **6 p.m.** en la misa de mariachis para celebrar **la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**. A continuación de la misa habrá una cena de fiesta en el salón parroquial.

El Padre Don Maddux explicará el significado de la visión de la Virgen como madre mexicana en el desarrollo de la Iglesia en México en el Foro dominical **de las 9:15 a.m. del 10 de diciembre**.



*The San Juan congregation celebrated All Saints' Sunday November 5 with the baptism of the twin sons of the Lopez family, the first baptism of twins in many years.*

*La congregación de San Juan celebró el domingo 5 de noviembre el Día De Todos los Santos y el bautismo de los hijos gemelos de la familia Lopez. Esta es la primera vez en muchos años que San Juan ha celebrado el bautismo de gemelos.*

## Faith Formation

### Women's Spirituality Group

By Vickie MacMillan

St. John's Women's Spirituality Group invites you to join us for our **December 2** lecture program entitled Hagar, Sarah and Abraham. Explore how the original Hebrew sheds new light on the characters of Hagar, Sarah and Abraham, and see a new dimension within these Biblical relationships that enhances and corrects popular interpretations. The video lecture will be followed by group activities and discussion.

Our studies this year are structured around the video lecture series entitled *Chasing Canonical Characters*. We watch ancient texts come to life as we learn about the colorful personalities within the Biblical narrative. Our video guide, biblical scholar Phyllis Trible, uses literary, rhetorical and feminist methods to weave a vibrant tapestry, illuminating the tales of the Hebrew Bible and their unforgettable characters.

St. John's Women's Spirituality Group meets the first Saturday of each month. Our next meeting is **December 2 from 10 a.m. – noon**. We'll be in the Parish Hall. Please come, and bring a friend! Each lecture stands alone. You are always welcome!

### Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols

Our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Greg Rickel, will again officiate the annual festival of Advent Lessons & Carols on **December 21 at 6:30 p.m.** It will feature all the musical ensembles at St. John's. That evening, we will collect items for the **YWCA Other Bank**, which provides personal hygiene products and other necessities to those in need. These items are not supplied by the food bank. The Other Bank needs:

- **Diapers** - for infants, sizes 4, 5, and 6
- **Dish soap** - family-size bottles
- **Shampoo** - family-size bottles
- **Menstrual products** - either pads or tampons

Thank you for your support of this festival and for helping our neighbors in need at the same time.

### Adult Forum Schedule for December & January

- **December 3**, An Introduction to Advent
- **December 10**, Juan Diego & the Virgen of Guadalupe
- **December 17**, An Introduction to St. Benedict
- *No forum on December 24 and 31*
- **January 7**, Who was Mary Magdalene?
- **January 14**, The *fiesta de quince años*: An Introduction
- **January 21**, A Theological Conversation, Part 1
- **January 28**, A Theological Conversation, Part 2
- **February 4**, St. John's Annual Meeting

### Book Group Schedule

By Curt Sather

We continue sharing a chapter each week of Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward* on Wednesdays at 11:15 a.m. and Thursdays at 10:45 a.m. (no group Wednesday, December 27).

Everyone come on Thursday, the final week of the book.

A new book will be discussed in January 2018. Wait for details!

### Men's Group

By Bill Unbehaun

Men's Group will be starting a new book soon, *Aging as a Spiritual Practice*, by Lewis Richmond. We meet **Saturday mornings at 8:30**. Contact Bill Unbehaun for more information at [unbiel@comcast.net](mailto:unbiel@comcast.net)

### Compline CDs for Sale

Two CDs are available, music for Evening Prayer and music for Christmas. \$15 each. Check with Curt Sather, any Compline Choir member or the church office.



## Children & Youth

### Practice Prayer—Beyond Sunday School

By Denise Hammer

Sunday school is a time of children's faith formation. That includes learning stories from the Bible, practicing worship elements from our Episcopal faith, growing fellowship among the children and learning how to have a conversation and deeper relationship with God.

Prayer is one way that we grow in faith, but often children experience discomfort when exposed to it only in the classroom and in the church. When prayer is only practiced on Sundays, it can feel formal and unnatural to a young child (and even many adults!).

I encourage you to spend the upcoming Advent, Christmas and Epiphany in a focused way. Become more comfortable practicing and sharing in prayer with the youth of our congregation and beyond. Keep in mind that prayer is often spoken or done silently, but it can be practiced in other ways as well. It can be sung, crafted, acted out, danced, written or performed. Seek out creative ways to pray using the unique talents of your young ones. I am sure they have some ideas to try.

If you embark on the journey of intentional prayer with your family, you may find many benefits.

- **Less self-conscious.** Children (and youth) are more comfortable if they can practice in the safe space of the home.
- **Less pressure.** Kids are not natural public speakers. Put on the spot, they often don't know what to say. Practice will give them words to use more readily in the classroom and beyond.
- **Less threatening.** Kids need help expressing themselves. I have heard some beautiful prayers said from the heart at home and gone on to witness greater comfort when praying with peers.
- **More Fun.** Finding new ways to pray can deepen family connectedness to each other and to God and add new traditions to the home.

Remember, there is no one correct way to pray! When your children call you, do you critically direct their communication with you, or are you simply happy they want to connect? Think of what is most important the next time you call up God to talk.

## Around the Parish

### Annual Jan. Powell's Bookstore Train Trip

By Chuck Moore

This is the second call for the Annual January Powell's Bookstore trip scheduled for **Saturday, January 13, 2018**. We will take the 8:45 a.m. train to Portland and walk to Powell's Bookstore, before going to Jake's Crawfish for dinner at 4:30 p.m. and walking back to the train station to catch the 6:30 p.m. (or thereabouts) train back to Olympia. Please consider joining us for this long-running annual event.

Please contact Chuck Moore at [chuckmoore55@hotmail.com](mailto:chuckmoore55@hotmail.com) or the Parish Secretary for more information.

### Artist of the Quarter

By Diane Russell

Beginning in 2018, your eyes will feast on Lou MacMillan's stunning photography. His passion began as drawing and painting, then as an attachment to a Kodak Instamatic camera and 35mm cameras, and evolved to a digital medium with ever-changing technology advancements.

Lou's recent study with workshops in Jackson, WY, and Venice, Italy, have given us images to initiate more conversations about the world around us...vastness and intimacy, light and darkness, color and sound, symmetry and perception.

Recent awards include the People's Choice Award at the 2017 Southwest Washington Juried Exhibition at the Gallery at SPSCC for a metal print of the Hoh Rain Forest.

Solitude continues to inspire Lou's work...capturing images in pre-dawn and evening light...sacred spaces that we all cherish. Watch as Lou's displays change through the coming months.

### Bees' Buzz

By Jenny Loudon

The Bees have been truly busy lately. We made, cut and wrapped fudge and caramels for the St. John's Christmas Faire. We also mixed, flavored and packaged honey. The Christmas Faire was quite

successful, and we look forward to our Christmas Lunch on **December 12**.

With the help of our two new active members—Lisa from St. Benedict's and Nancy from St. John's—we've been more productive than ever. We're looking forward to being able to do many good things for girls in need in our area!

## Library Ministry

By Janice Jackson

The Christmas Faire is over, and we thank all of you who donated books and purchased our gifts. It was fun to share the excitement and watch the decorations throughout the church!

Advent has begun. We have wonderful books in the Library that are great for the season. Come in and check one out to learn more about Advent and the Christmas Season! We are adding more books that deal with medical problems like PTSD and Alzheimer's and how to give care and support.

Did you know we have music to check out? We will be adding some of St. John's Compline CD's so you can listen again and again to their wonderful sounds. Just be sure to remember to bring them back so others can listen also.

## Musical Events December/January

By Curt Sather

On **Tuesday, December 5**, an **Advent Taizé Service** will be held at **7 p.m.**, preceded by a 6 p.m. meal. All are welcome for an evening of chants from the ecumenical monastic community of Taizé, France. Instrumentalists are encouraged to contact Curt Sather to participate in leading the music.

The 10:30 a.m. Advent services will include the Trumpet Quartet on **December 3**, Choral Music by Handel on **December 10**, the Olympia Sacred Jazz Ensemble on **December 17** and Advent Choral Music on **December 24**.

On **Thursday, December 21**, our Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols will be presented at **6:30 p.m.** This Anglican tradition of telling the prophecy and birth of Jesus Christ in scripture and song includes special musical guest, singer LaVon Hardison.

On **Christmas Eve**, Sunday, December 24, the Parish and Jubilate Choirs will be joined by instrumentalists at the 10:30 p.m. service for the musical setting of the Midnight Mass by the French Baroque composer Charpentier and anthems of the sacred night.

### Non-St. John's musical events:

- Curt Sather at Shelton United Methodist Church, Friday, **December 8**, Soup and Sound. Enjoy lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by a Christmas organ recital on the church's beautiful pipe organ at **12:15 p.m.** Free and open to all.
- Curt Sather and Brother Aelred at St. Martin's Abbey Church, Saturday, **December 9, 8 p.m.** Hear works by Handel, Schubert and others, for tenor, piano, organ, harpsichord and string quartet.
- Sing-along-Messiah, Washington Center, Monday, **December 18, 7 p.m.** The Olympia Youth Orchestra accompanies soloists, and the audience sings choruses from Handel's "Messiah". Curt Sather will supply music for all who want to sing along.
- Curt Sather, organ recital, Christ Church, Tacoma, Friday, **January 19, 2018, noon**. Free.

### Looking ahead:

- **St. John's Concert Series 2018:** *Seattle Pro Musica*, Sunday, February 11, 2018, 3 p.m.
- **Bach Birthday Recital**, Wednesday, March 21, 2018, time TBA

## Beyond the Walls

### Community Calling: Join Hands & Hearts

By Terri Lolcama, Deacon

In the last several weeks, our Gospels have focused on *being prepared* to take a risk and lend a hand to others. The situations and the stories have not changed in over 2,000 years. The homeless are on the streets, children and families go hungry every day. Many continue to live on the margins of existence.

Here are a few needs in our community:

- The YWCA Other Bank needs menstrual products (pads or tampons), large size disposable diapers (size 4, 5, or 6), family-size dish soap, family-size shampoo. You can donate these items at the

Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols on December 21 at 6:30 p.m.

- The Festival of Gifts for local nursing home residents needs gifts. Sign up in the Parish Hall.
- The Providence Community Care Center needs ground coffee, granulated sugar and powdered creamer.

The following organizations need volunteers:

- **Salvation Army Community Kitchen:** Contact Tim Tayne, 360-357-5537 to join the St. John's team.
- **CIELO:** Contact Charo Portaro, 360-941-7905
- **Providence Community Care Center:** Contact Interfaith Works, 360-486-6400
- **SideWalk:** See [www.walkthurston.org](http://www.walkthurston.org)

For more information about donations or volunteering, contact Outreach Committee Chair, Sherry Sullivan, at 360-705-1974 or Deacon Terri Lolcama at 360-754-8819, 360-789-6491 or email [terri@stjohnsoly.org](mailto:terri@stjohnsoly.org).

## Tithia's Latest Message from Cambodia

Tithia writes from Thailand, where he has gone temporarily for safety until the political tension in Cambodia dies down. Last week, the country's Supreme Court ruled to dissolve the opposition party he belongs to (Cambodia National Rescue Party). This one-sided decision (the CNRP refused to participate) removed "the only existing electoral threat to Prime Minister Hun Sen's grip on power in Cambodia." The decision was pronounced final, without appeal. It was based on the claim that the CNRP was attempting to overthrow the government of Cambodia, aided by the United States.

International and regional organizations decried the decision as "the death of democracy," "a political killing of the Paris Peace Accords" and "a human rights and rule of law" crisis. The CNRP deputy VP, however, declared it was not a fatal blow: "We will remain the proud elected representatives of our people at local and national levels."

Tithia has not said whether he still intends or is able to run for office in this party and how this crisis affects his plans.

## Our Student Arnol at El Hogar

By Sue Michie

Arnol sends a **Feliz Navidad** to each of you as the Christmas season is upon us. He is now on his winter/Christmas break from school at El Hogar, *The School of Love and Hope*, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The new school year begins in February, and Arnol will be in the Fourth grade.

Thank you for your continued support of Arnol. Your generous contributions (in the colorful offering plates each Second Sunday of the month) go to support Arnol as we fulfill our \$2,400 pledge. Be sure to write **El Hogar** on any checks. Our next Second Sundays are **December 10, January 14** and **February 11**.

Please keep Arnol, the other students and the staff at El Hogar in your prayers, especially over this holiday season. The safest place in Tegucigalpa for the students is at El Hogar. However, many of them will be gone part or all of the holiday visiting family, often in unsafe housing or communities. ¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

## Recurring Schedule

### Sunday

- 8, 10:30 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*, childcare at 9 a.m.
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Forum, Parish Hall
- 6 p.m. *La Santa Eucaristía*
- 6 p.m. Compline Choir Practice
- 8 p.m. Compline Service

### Monday

- 10 a.m. Monday Morning Crafters, Parish Hall
- Noon Quilting Group, Parish Hall

### Tuesday

- 10 a.m. Prayer Shawl Group, Guild Room

### Wednesday

- 7 a.m. *Holy Eucharist*, Chapel
- 10 a.m. Bible Study, Parish Hall
- 11:15 a.m. Book Group, Parish Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Parish Choir, Parish Hall

### Thursday

- 10:45 a.m. Book Group, Parish Hall
- Noon Centering Prayer, Parish Hall
- 1:30 p.m. Jubilate Choir, Parish Hall
- 5:30 p.m. EfM, Guild Meeting Room

### Saturday

- 8:30 a.m. Men's Group, Library

## December-January Schedule

### December 2, Saturday

10 a.m. Women's Spirituality, Parish Hall

### December 4, Monday

5:30 p.m. Strengthening Sanctuary, Parish Hall

### December 5, Tuesday

7 p.m. Advent Taizé Service

### December 8, Friday

6:30 p.m. Winter Stew Potluck, Parish Hall

### December 11, Monday

6 p.m. La Virgen de Guadalupe Service

### December 12, Tuesday

1 p.m. Busy Bees, Christmas Lunch, Parish Hall

7 p.m. Building & Grounds, Library

### December 13, Wednesday

11:30 a.m. Pastoral Care, Guild Room

### December 14, Thursday

6 p.m. Budget Committee, Library

### December 18, Monday

1 p.m. Library Committee, Library

5:30 p.m. Strengthening Sanctuary, Parish Hall

### December 21, Thursday

12:30 p.m. St. Mary's Guild

6:30 p.m. Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols service

### December 24, Sunday, Christmas Eve

5:30 p.m. Family Eucharist (with pageant, no incense)

7:30 p.m. La Santa Eucharistía (with incense)

10:30 p.m. Solemn Choral Eucharist (with incense)

### December 25, Christmas

10:30 a.m. The Nativity of Our Lord

### December 27, Wednesday

7 a.m. Feast of St. John, Our Patron, Chapel

### January 2, Tuesday

5:30 p.m. Altar Guild, Guild Room

### January 5, Friday

6 p.m. The Epiphany (bilingual)

### January 6, Saturday

10 a.m. Women's Spirituality, Guild Room

### January 9, Tuesday

1 p.m. Busy Bees, Guild Room

7 p.m. Building & Grounds, Library

### January 10, Wednesday

11:30 a.m. Pastoral Care, Guild Room

### January 11, Thursday

6 p.m. Budget Committee, Library

### January 15, Monday

1 p.m. Library Committee, Library

5:30 p.m. Strengthening Sanctuary, Parish Hall

### January 18, Thursday

12:30 p.m. St. Mary's Guild

### January 24, Wednesday

11:30 a.m. Daughters of the King, Guild Room

### January 29, Monday

5:30 p.m. Strengthening Sanctuary, Parish Hall

### February 4, Sunday

All-Parish Meeting

### Office Hours: Monday to Friday

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (360) 352-8527

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### Clergy and Staff

Rector: The Rev. Robert (R.C.) Laird

Associate, Spanish Ministries: The Rev. Don Maddux

Curate: The Rev. Juli Mallett

Deacon: The Rev. Terri Lolcama

Organist/Choirmaster: Dr. Curt Sather

Pastoral Musician, Spanish Ministries: Sergio Gomez

Treasurer: Lance Avery

Sexton: Sergio Gomez

Secretary: Michelle Lozar

**Vestry:** Bill Van Hook, Senior Warden

Meredith "Nicki" Weekes, Junior Warden

Ron Leo, Member at Large, Executive Committee

Mary Conley Law, Clerk of the Vestry

Laura Tayne, Mary Conley Law, Elaine Ross, Ron Leo,

Denise Hammer, Michael Clifthorne, Tracie O'Brien,

Bill Van Hook, Catherine Atwell, Bob LeRoy, Mark

Tepley, Meredith "Nicki" Weekes

### Hear Ye Hear Ye! February Chronicle!

Email articles and pictures for the **February Chronicle** to your Chronicle editors, Maryjane Hancock and Christie Guydish, at [maryjanehancock@gmail.com](mailto:maryjanehancock@gmail.com), no later than **January 15, 2018**.

# St. John's Episcopal Church

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## Advent & Christmas at St. John's

- ◆ **Advent Taizé Evening, Tuesday, December 5: 6 p.m.**  
Dinner, 7 p.m. Taizé Service
- ◆ **La Virgen de Guadalupe, Monday, December 11: 6 p.m.** Mariachi Mass, Fiesta to follow
- ◆ **Festival of Advent Lessons & Carols, Thursday, December 21: 6:30 p.m.** Service, Reception to follow
- ◆ **The Fourth Sunday of Advent, Sunday, December 24: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.** Holy Eucharist
- ◆ **The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24:**
  - \* **5:30 p.m.** Family Eucharist (with pageant, no incense)
  - \* **7:30 p.m.** La Santa Eucharistía (with incense)
  - \* **10:30 p.m.** Solemn Choral Eucharist (with incense)

- ◆ **The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Day, Monday, December 25: 10:30 a.m.** Holy Eucharist (with organ & carols, no incense)
- ◆ **The Feast of St. John, Our Patron, Wednesday, December 27: 7 a.m.** Holy Eucharist (in the Chapel)
- ◆ **The Epiphany—La Epifanía, Friday, January 5, 2018: 6 p.m.** Bilingual Eucharist, Fiesta to follow

## Annual Winter Stew Potluck

By Chuck Moore

The Annual Winter Stew Potluck will be on **Friday, December 8, at 6:30 p.m.** We will celebrate the warmth of community, the warmth of hearty broths and stews, and (of course) the warmth of the Parish Hall. If you'd like to join us, we'd love to sample your favorite stew (or side-dish or dessert). Wine and coffee will be provided.

Please contact Chuck Moore at [chuckmoore55@hotmail.com](mailto:chuckmoore55@hotmail.com) or the Parish Secretary for more information.