



St. John's News

JANUARY 2008

Supper at St. Johns Begins Wednesday, January 23, 2008 Something for Everyone!

- What:** Dinner, followed by education classes for all ages.
When: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 p.m. beginning January 23 and continuing for ten weeks (breaking for Easter Week)
Where: Fellowship Hall for dinner and adult program; Carriage House for youth and children's programs
Who: Everyone in our St. John's community
Why: To nourish our bodies, minds and spirits.

The Christian Education Committee warmly invites all of our of St. John's family for weekly supper and spiritual enrichment beginning Wednesday, January 23. A family dinner will be provided in Fellowship Hall from 6:00-6:30 p.m. Immediately after dinner, we will break into groups to pursue age-appropriate educational opportunities:

- Child care for ages 5 and under
- **ALIVE!** Children's activities and programs in the Carriage House for first through seventh graders
- Confirmation Class with Dr. Wilson for eighth graders
- Bible study (either Alpha or another curriculum – your choice) for Senior Highs, led by Erin Hayes
- The Alpha Course for Adult education for college-age and above.

Our initial adult education offering will be the ten-week Alpha Course. Alpha is known for creating seeker-friendly communities that invite exploration of God's Good News. Each week we will gather to watch a video, about 35-40 minutes in length, that will provide the stimulus for small group discussion. Alpha's Biblically-based program has been created to help people grow in their Christian faith, no matter where they are in their own personal faith journey.

Senior Highs will "sample" Alpha in the first week and then decide whether to continue the study or pursue another option that Erin will present. Either way, senior high youth will have a weekly opportunity for study, discussion and fellowship among themselves.

Victor Wilson will guide our eighth graders on their path to confirmation as members of St. John's in the traditional Confirmation program. Again this year, confirmands will have supplementary one-on-one instruction with a mentor outside of the Wednesday evening study.

Children in K-7th grade will participate in ALIVE! See more information in the youth news pages.

Dinner will be provided for families each week by one of several small groups in the church. The Board of Women's Fellowship has graciously agreed to prepare the first week's meal, and other small groups will take a turn in subsequent weeks.

Plan to bring your entire family for food, fellowship, fun and spiritual enrichment. Watch your mailbox for additional information.

A Part of the Dream

by Erin Hayes

In the second chapter of the book of Acts the spirit of God came down to people who came from all different corners of the earth. Combined they heard the voice of God speak in one common language, that of spirit. They understood each other. Today the Holy Spirit lives and moves amongst us. This chapter of Acts shows us an example of a community bonded by the spirit of God. How are we exemplifying that today? We can find the blessing of God in the space of a diverse human community.

I believe Dr. Martin Luther King called for this creative community. In fact, he fought, was jailed and cried for this community. Ultimately he was killed for dreaming. Forty years later, black men make up the largest number of incarcerated individuals, young men and women of color die on our Philadelphia streets, college-educated African-American young women and men do not make as much money as high school-educated Caucasian people. We've come far from the segregated bathrooms in the 1950's. However, we live segregated lives. Today as our routines take over our minds how are we living into Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s dream? I ask that this January as the cold tries to seep into our bones that you warm your hearts with the call to live and fight for the equality of all. "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Amos 5:24

I Dream a World Langston Hughes

I dream a world where man
No other man will scorn,
Where love will bless the earth
And peace its path adorn.
I dream a world where all
Will know sweet freedom's way,
Where greed no longer saps the soul
Nor avarice blights our day.
A world I dream where black or white,
Whatever race you be,
Will share the bounties of the earth
And every man is free,
Where wretchedness will hang its head
And joy, like a pearl,
Attends the needs of all mankind-
Of such I dream, my world!

"Blanket the World with Love"...

This January, after all your holiday gifts have been exchanged, please consider one more gift... support our annual blanket drive donation to Church World Service.

"For a child shivering in the cold, a warm blanket can mean the difference between life and death."

You can buy a quality wool blanket for a family in need by donating just \$5.00! Please help St. John's achieve the "Blanket Honor Roll" given to congregations that donate at least one blanket for every two families in the membership.

"When your home has been washed away by torrential rains, or war has torn your world apart, your immediate wish for your children is a warm place to sleep. A Church World Service \$5 blanket is something to hold on to, along with the hope for brighter days ahead."

Visit the Blanket Drive table during coffee fellowship January 13, 20, and 27, or contribute through the offering plate using the envelopes in the weekly bulletin.

Thank you for your generosity!

A Christmas Blessing!

Carolyn Baughman with Ellie McKay

Ellie was born December 11

at 4 lbs. 9 oz.

(5 weeks early)

Jane & Victor Wilson, proud grandparents



An Invitation for the Women of St. John's

On Wednesday, February 6th (Ash Wednesday), the women of St. John's will gather to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season. The Lenten Luncheon is an annual tradition where we gather in friendship, hear a thought provoking message, and share Communion. You will return to your job or the other duties of your day with a wonderful sense of renewal and community. And of course, the Women's Fellowship Board will provide a delicious lunch for everyone.

Plan now to join us. We will begin at 11:30AM and conclude around 1:15PM. At the end of January, look for sign-up information in the Church Bulletin and at Coffee Fellowship. Many women take this opportunity to have their sister, mother, friend, or co-worker share this special meal. We encourage you to offer an invitation to anyone who might be interested. If you have any questions, please contact Sue Hollinger (610) 971-9084, Susan Apathy (610) 293-1293 or Christine Markle (610) 640-4390. Thank you!



We know how much you look forward to that cup of coffee or tea after the service. Won't you please consider taking a turn at providing coffee service in January or February?

We supply instructions and everything you need. This is such a great way to meet new people or reconnect with friends while you serve. You can use the signup sheet on the coffee cart to select a convenient date or call Nancy Higgins at 610-644-3642. The Women's Fellowship Board is very grateful for your help.

Awakening The Dreamer, Changing the Dream Saturday, January 12 8:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

According to a majority of the world's experts, there is now overwhelming evidence that our modern society is headed for a catastrophe. Leading scientists are telling us that the impact of our industrial system and the sudden expansion of humanity's ability to harvest the common bounty of our planet for short-term gain may actually be upsetting the balance of our highly complex and fragile web of life.

There is always a chance of course, as some point out, that the experts are wrong, and that human ingenuity will come up with some kind of technological fix that will avert a global disaster. But with a risk so overwhelming, the potential cost so great, it is irresponsible to keep doing what we are doing, and not to give this issue the serious attention it deserves.

Indigenous people of South America, who still live in their traditional Earth-honoring ways, refer to our modern worldview as our "dream", and have urged us, for the sake of all life, to "change the dream of the North." This is one of the generating principles behind the Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream Symposium. The Symposium is a day-long multi media experience that explores the link between humanity's three most critical concerns: environmental sustainability, social justice and spiritual fulfillment. Using video clips from some of the world's most respected thinkers, along with inspiring short films, leading edge information and group interactions, the Symposium allows participants to gain a new insight into the very nature of our time, and the opportunity we have to shape and impact the direction of our world.

The aim of the Symposium is not merely to learn more about the world, but to grapple and come to grips with the very assumptions that underlie the way we ourselves see the world and our place in it.

If you are ready to be disturbed, inspired and moved to action, if you are ready to be introduced to a thriving community of like-hearted, deeply committed cohorts who are actively engaged in awakening from and changing the dream of our modern industrial culture, we invite you to come on Saturday, January 12, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Carriage House. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. Teens are free! For more information or to register, contact Howard and Betsy Friend, 610.649.4142 or hfriend@prodigy.net.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND YOUTH NEWS

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ALIVE!

Children's program for Supper at St. Johns

Our children remind us about the wonderful, creative and innovative world in which we live. Starting in January we invite children from Kindergarten through seventh grade to join the exciting adventure here at St. John's. Each Wednesday evening following supper our children will be divided by grades and travel together to experience many fun and exciting activities.

We will sing, create gifts for our neighbors, and play games, all to the glory of God! Each group will be able to choose an activity such as computers, movies or homework during a half hour of free time. Alive! is an invitation for our children to be themselves in the midst of a Creator who loves them.

We will be looking for you on January 23. If you would like to be a helper with crafts, games or music we are always looking for lively hands!

This Month in WoRM

Children in our WoRM program will conclude the rotation on Advent from the Shepherds' Point of View on January 13th. Our new rotation on the Judges of the Old Testament will begin with a group session on January 20th. As always, thanks to our WoRM teachers:

Shepherds rotation: Betsy Friend - drama; Janette Scott - movies; Suzanne Frederick - arts and crafts; Darlene Hinderer - computers; Nancy Higgins - games; Nancy Kimmons - music. **Judges rotation:** Susan Apathy - drama; Carolyn Repke - movies; Amy Lord - arts and crafts; Trish Ginsberg - computers; Shirley Hughes - games.

Upcoming Dates

January 6	4:30-6 Junior High Fellowship
January 13	4:30-6 Junior High Fellowship
January 21	Martin Luther King Service Day
January 23	6:30 - SUPPER AT ST. JOHN'S BEGINS
January 27	11:15 Mission Trip Parents' Meeting \$150 deposit due
January 30	6:30 - Supper at St. John's

Broad Street Ministries Partnership

On Friday, December 14 six youth hopped on the train to Broad Street Ministries in Philadelphia. We participated in the Youth Initiative, designed to immerse youth into the world of giving in our area. Two other youth groups, from Swarthmore Presbyterian and Overbrook Presbyterian churches, stayed the night at Broad Street as well. On Friday evening youth participated in an innovative worship that included candles, smashing plates and a reflection about forgiveness. Later that evening each group was sent out on a scavenger hunt around the city. Our group took pictures in front of Bethesda Project, an organization dedicated to ending homelessness. The end of our hunt led us to LOVE Park near city hall. Youth found that at night the park is filled with homeless people.

Saturday morning all three groups talked with a member of Broad Street Ministries about what it is like to be homeless. A representative from the Bethesda project then led the St. John's group to Spruce House. Established in 1983, Spruce House is a community designed for 16 formerly homeless single women. While there we made a tasty winter afternoon lunch, played Bingo, made snowflakes and sang Christmas carols. When it was time to leave everyone was sad to say goodbye. We all look forward to future experiences with our friends at Broad Street.

Martin Luther King Service Day

All St. John's Youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to participate in our annual Martin Luther King Service Day project on Monday, January 21st. Traditionally, we have gone into Philadelphia to lend our hands cleaning or repairing in an area of need. Save the day, and watch your email for details from Erin.

Mission Trip Dates

Nearly 20 youth have signed up to participate in the 2008 Mission Trip to Rutland, Vermont. Parents of all interested youth are reminded to attend the parents' meeting on Sunday, January 27th at 11:15 a.m. in the Carriage House. At this time, the first deposit of \$150 is due. Additional meetings will be held April 20 (\$50 due) and June 15 (final deposit of \$60 due). Save the dates!

The youth will meet on February 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. to learn more about our planned trip and activities. Watch for details of the Mission Trip lock-in, to be held in later in the spring.

It's not too late to sign up to participate! Participants in past mission trips have found these events to be extremely rewarding and fulfilling as we put our faith in action. If you are interested, please contact Erin at 610-971-0670.

Women's Biblical Reflections

Please join us as at 8:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Carriage House. We will resume our meetings on Sunday, January 13, so please join us as we build community and grow in our faith. Leadership is shared and we will continue studying from the book, *Prayer and Worship*, by Richard Foster.

If you have questions please call or chat with Libby Dalrymple, Nancy Davis, Earline Eck, Betsy Friend, Monica Henkle, Debbie Railton, or Pam Schafer.

Thank you!

Our Christmas and Advent programs would not be possible without the many, many willing hands that pitch in to help wherever needed. Christian Ed would like to especially thank the following helpers.

Advent Festival: Elizabeth, Mark and Matt Ator, Ardith Belzer, Sue Chudy, Erin Hayes, Nancy Higgins, Bob Miller, Debbie Railton, Melody Ticknor, and Cammy Wagner.

Christmas Pageant: Katie Eaddy, Sue Hollinger, Shirley Hughes, Diane Legnini and Julie Steege.

Angels Among Us - Our Christmas Pageant Participants



Christmas Pageant Cast: Anton and Brigitte Belzer, Becca Chudy, Jane Margaret, Sam and Weldon Eaddy, Connor and Oliver Feldman, Elizabeth and Ryan Hollinger, Jillian, Daniel and Heather Hughes, Emma Grace Lewis, Laura Jean McClintick, Fiona and Lucy Neely, Clara Steege, Emily Wilson, Meggie and Ian Wolfe.

Advent Around St. John's



**Scenes from
Alternative Christmas,
Hanging of the Greens
Advent Festival**



Report from Session – December, 2007

The Session held its monthly meeting on December 10. We were joined by Libby Dalrymple, Church Treasurer, and Ken Dilloway, Financial Secretary, for discussion of the monthly Treasurer's Report and the status of the Stewardship Campaign for 2008.

St. John's is currently operating at a deficit for 2007, largely due to some \$12,000 in pledges for which no contribution has been made this year. Some of these families have left the area, and we do not expect to receive this income. Session and the Board of Trustees will work to rectify this shortfall, using our prior years' surplus and other funds in a responsible manner.

The Stewardship Campaign was projected to fall short of the proposed budget by approximately \$9,000 to \$12,000 at last count. Since it is not our practice to approve a budget that would operate at a deficit, we will work to balance the budget with an additional appeal to the congregation. The full details will be presented to the congregation in January.

This disparity had been considerably larger until Libby elected to perform the work of Treasurer as a volunteer. For many years, Libby has been involved in various aspects of volunteering at St. John's, from Christian Education to Session, dinners and other activities. Libby has enjoyed the blessings and the fellowship that these roles have provided. Since she assumed the role of Treasurer, time for volunteering has become more limited, so she felt that this would be her gift to St. John's. The Trustees and Session are deeply grateful and inspired by this act of extreme generosity. Thank you, Libby.

We are still asking for your prayers and prayerful consideration as we work to bridge these financial shortfalls. If you feel moved to adjust your pledge for 2008 to aid in this cause, we would be most appreciative. There is a link on the home page at www.stjohnsdevon.com.

In the areas of new programming, many folks are excited to be gearing up for "Supper at St. John's" to be held Wednesdays, beginning January 23, in conjunction with our own presentation of the Alpha program. We have heard wonderful things about this program from other congregations in our area and beyond.

At the time of this meeting, we were also in the midst of a full slate of Advent and Christmas activities. The Hanging of the Greens and Hymn Sing on the weekend of December 8 and 9 were well-attended and offered fellowship and fun.

Session wishes all of our members, friends and their families a healthy and blessed Christmas Season.

LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYERS ...

Prayers for Healing and Restoration ...

Judy Graham, recovering at home after surgery

Joan Elliot, recovering after surgery

Nancy Fielden resting after an infection

Judith Voegler, resting after an illness

Prayers of Joy ...

Michael and Carolyn Baughman celebrating the birth of daughter Ellie McKay Baughman on December 11, 2007.





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Supper at St. John's - The Basics!

Come the first night, Wednesday, January 23rd at 6:00 p.m. and see if Supper at St. John's might be right for you.

- ✠ Dinner starts the evening off right
- ✠ The Alpha Course for adults offers a practical look at our Christian faith and a deeper understanding of God
- ✠ Youth and Children's programs deepen our young people's relationships with our church
- ✠ The evening provides opportunities for fellowship with others who are committed to exploring and growing in faith

Many of us have skipped some basics in developing our faith and have some unanswered questions. Come and get fed physically and spiritually too!

Questions??? Feel free to call:

Kathy Johnson, 610-296-8389
Sue Chudy, 610-240-9399

Bob Miller, 610-647-0807
Earline Eck, 610-644-5418



St. John's Presbyterian Church

The Reverend Dr. Victor M. Wilson, Pastor: victor.wilson@stjohnsdevon.com
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Contact any member of the newsletter team with suggestions and contributions!
Newsletter team: Elizabeth Ator, Earline Eck, Betsy Friend, Carol Netter, Sue Parsons, Jeremy Sulit

NEXT DEADLINE: January 15