



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S

December

Saturday the 3rd 9:00 A.m. **Hanging of the Greens.** All ages are welcome to come and decorate our parish Christmas trees in the Church and Parish Hall.

Sunday the 4th 9:00 A.m. **St. Nick** Celebration. This special advent event brings fun and festivity to our parish with a visit from St. Nicholas who is sure to bring with him small treats, surprises and some great stories of his goodness and kind deeds.

Wednesday the 7th 6:00 P.m. A special adult spiritual formation program by **Dr. Fretheim** (Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary) who will join us to share his love for the "Godly Old Testament" and his passion about God as "a God who weeps, who gets angry, who rejoices. . . a God who is in genuine interaction with the world."

Saturday the 10th 3:00 P.m. **All Parish Christmas Caroling;** meet at the White Bear Lake Care Center to spread the joy of the season among the nursing home residents. Followed by a supper in the parish hall at 5:00 P.m. Sign up on the Families Inc. Bulletin Board in the Parish Hall. Questions: contact Beth Kelm ehduke@comcast.net

Sunday the 11th 4:00 P.m. **Lessons and Carols** followed by reception. Modeled after King's College, Cambridge, the choirs of St. John feature traditional and novel carols interspersed with Scripture that prepares your soul for the coming of the Christ Child. Gathering music begins at 3:30 P.m. Nursery Care available.

Wednesday the 14th 7:00 P.m. **Advent Play** "Make Room for Christmas" with Communion. Hear our children and youth tell and sing the story of how the animals and children of Bethlehem prepared for the arrival of Jesus' birth.

Sunday the 18th 9:00 A.m. **Advent Play** "Make Room for Christmas" with Communion. Hear our children and youth tell and sing the story of how the animals and children of Bethlehem prepared for the arrival of Jesus' birth.

Saturday the 24th 4:00 P.m. Family **Christmas Eve** Eucharist 10:30 P.m. Choral Christmas Eve Eucharist.

Sunday the 25th 10:00 A.m. **Christmas Day** Holy Eucharist (please note that there are no other liturgies this day so we can all join together and celebrate the birth of our Savior).

Wednesday the 28th 7:00 P.m. **Holy Innocents** Healing Eucharist *We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims; and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Saturday the 31st 11:30 A.m. **Out to Lunch.** Come and give a gift of your time in the season of giving.

Sunday, January 1 10:00 A.m. **New Year's Day** Choral Eucharist (please note that there are no other liturgies this day so we can gather together as a parish family and welcome in the new year).

See you in Church.

Fr. Mark

Wherever you are on your faith journey...St. John's welcomes you.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

As the Voice has gone to print in mid November, we are pleased to report that 2006 Appeal pledges from 114 households total \$242,049.50. Eighty-nine households who pledged in 2005 are still uncommitted for 2006. Taking the anticipated support of previous pledgers together with that of our already pledged households, we can project that our budgeted Appeal revenue goal is within our grasp. The Appeal revenue is the mainstay of St. John's budget—it is the basis for our ministries and our capacity to grow. It will take faith and generosity, and the inclusion of new members in our Church family to reach our goal.

Stewardship is a path to give back for the gifts of God's love we experience in our lives. When we experience the bounty of God's love, we realize that it is a renewable and infinite potential in our own lives. St. John's is a wellspring of God's love, and our collective ministries are a renewing force in expanding God's love every day. We do that through many gifts, one of which is our financial commitment. Thank you for your many gifts to our St. John's ministries, and especially for your financial commitment to the Annual Appeal. That is a critical foundation for our Parish's well-being in 2006.



Anne Hovland, Stewardship Committee Chair

The Gospel of Matthew

On Sundays, 10-11 am in the Parlor, we continue a Gospel of Matthew bible study. See a 20-25 minute presentation, followed by readings and discussion. Our primary references are: *The Gospel of Matthew (Interpreting Biblical Texts series)*, Donald Senior, Abingdon Press, 1997; and *Reading Matthew. A Literary and Theological Commentary*, David E. Garland, Smyth & Helwys, 2001. If you worship at 10:30 am, please join us! You can still see the entire presentation and grab a handout. **Dr. Terence Fretheim Here Wed. 12/7** From 6-7 pm in the Parish Hall, Dr. Terence Fretheim, Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, joins us to share his love for the "Godly Old Testament" and his passion about God as "a God who weeps, who gets angry, who rejoices ... a God who is in genuine interaction with the world."

Please come welcome him to our church, and bring your questions about how the Old Testament describes God.

The Nativity Stories Today

In Advent we prepare anew for the first coming of Jesus, God's breaking into creation by taking on human form, inaugurating the Kingdom of God on earth and signaling the initial transformation of creation. We also prepare ourselves for the second coming of Jesus, for the consummation of God's purposes for creation, for the Kingdom of God on earth in its fullness, when God will finally reign with God's resurrected people in a new and transformed creation. In this spirit of preparation, on Wednesdays December 14, 21, & 28, from 6-7 pm in the Parish Hall, explore the meaning today of the bible stories of the Nativity and the Holy Innocents.

PASSAGES

BAPTISMS

Ashlyn Grace Brown 11/6/2005
Evan Peter Vickstrom 11/6/2005

NEW TRANSFERS

Kern Walker 10/21/2005
Mary Walker 10/21/2005

BURIAL

Jean Ruth Johnston 11/14/2005

December Nursery Care

Every Sunday 9-11:30 am
Except Christmas & New Year's Days 10-11 am
Plus on the 11th 3:30-5:30 pm

Every Wednesday 6-8 pm
Except the 28th closed

Saturday the 10th 10am -noon
Saturday the 24th 4-5:30 pm

The Adult Education Schedule

Sundays 10 -11 am in the Parlor

Dec 4 The Gospel of Matthew 2
Dec 11 The Gospel of Matthew 3
Dec 18 The Gospel of Matthew 4
Dec 25 No meeting
Dec 31 No meeting

Wednesdays 6-7 pm in the Parish Hall

Dec 7 The Suffering of God 8. Prof. Terence Fretheim joins us!
Dec 14 The Nativity Stories Today, part 1
Dec 21 The Nativity Stories Today, part 2
Dec 28 The Holy Innocents Today

Our Web Site and Committee

www.StJohnAdultEd.Org includes series information, our schedule, and downloadable prior presentation overheads or PowerPoint slides. Comments, questions or suggestions? Interested in joining the Adult Education and Formation Committee? Contact David Monyak: phone 651/481-8697, or e-mail d.monyak@comcast.net.

VESTRY HILITES

The Vestry met on November 8, 2005.

Therese Branby has completed a review of our insurance policy and the decision was made to continue with our current provider.

John LeFevre presented information regarding the sale of the Haynes property in Arizona. Thank you, John, for donating your services on many of St. John's legal matters over the months.

The Vestry will conduct a Mutual Ministry Review on November 27th. We will explore the current and future state of our ministries.

It was reported that after a lengthy investigation our building was found to be unsuited for the needs of a preschool. Thank you, to Tim Hammond and Chris Hawley, for all of your efforts.

The size and function of our Vestry was discussed.

The preliminary 2006 budget was reviewed.

It was announced that Jim Knauss has been hired as our part time Sexton.

The following motions were passed:

The Vestry accepts the resolutions concerning the sale of real estate in Mesa, Arizona as submitted by John LeFevre.

The Vestry accepts the donation of a gas grill given by George Gorbatenko.

In the interest of reducing the Vestry size, only two (Property and Stewardship) of the five vacant positions will be filled.

The Vestry approves the hiring of Jim Knauss as part time Sexton.

PROPOSED BYLAWS CHANGES

The congregation will vote on proposed changes to St. John in the Wilderness' Bylaws at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 15, 2006. Copies of the proposed changes are in the parking lot entrance, on the table outside the office, and on the Web at www.stjohnwilderness.org. Ask your questions at a meeting in the Parish Hall on January 8 at 10 am, or by calling either committee member listed below.

It is important to review our Bylaws at regular intervals: to reflect changes made to diocesan and national Canons; to alter or clarify policies already in place, or add new policies as the church grows and its needs change.

The Committee met regularly in 2005 to review the current Bylaws, which were approved at the Annual Parish Meeting on January 20, 2002. There are a number of changes on which to vote.

Barbara Merrill: 651/429-1005

Sherri Afryl: 651/483-5587

ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSIONS DUE BY DECEMBER 31ST

Each committee or group shall list its mission, 2005 membership, 2005 activities, and 2006 plan. Only electronic submissions will be accepted. E-mails are preferable, to wilderness2@stjohnwilderness.org. If you have a Macintosh versus a pc, please type your report within the body of your e-mail message, not in an attached document. You may also save Microsoft Word report documents to disk to leave in the Parish Administrator mail slot. Thank you volunteers for your complete and timely submissions!



Bible Readings

December 4

Isaiah 40:1-11

2 Peter 3:8-15a,18

Mark 1:1-8

Psalms 85:7-13

December 11

Isaiah 65:17-25

1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

John 3:23-30

Psalms 126

December 18

2 Samuel 7:4,8-16

Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38

Psalms 132:8-15

December 24, 4:00 PM

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-14

Psalms 96:1-4,11-12

December 24, 10:30 PM

Isaiah 62:6-7,10-12

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-20

Psalms 97:1-4,11-12

December 25, 10:00 AM

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14

Psalms 98:1-6

January 1, 10:00 AM

Exodus 34:1-8

Romans 1:1-7

Luke 2:15-21

Psalms 8

Underlined verses are read during the family service.

St John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church-December 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			Every Wednesday 1:00 pm Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Adult Education 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist	1 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline	2 5 pm Wedding Rehearsal	3 9 am Hanging of the Greens & Decoration of Parish Christmas Trees 3 pm Wedding Concession Fundraising during Steven Curtis Chapman Concert at the Xcel Energy Center
4 7:30/9/10:30 am Eucharist 9 am St. Nicholas Celebration during worship 5 pm The Frets youth guitar group practice until 6 pm 6 pm Senior High Youth Group until 8 pm	5 4 pm Executive Committee Meeting in the Fire Place Room 7 pm Outreach Committee Meeting 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	6 St. Nicholas Day 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group in the Parish Hall 2:30 pm White Bear Lake Care Center Communion 3 pm LifeTouch Parish Directory photos until 9 pm 7 pm Altar Guild Meeting	7 See Every Wednesday above Noon staff holiday lunch 1 pm quilt kit preparation in Parish Hall 6:15 pm 1st Year Confirmation in the Parlor 7 pm Pageant Rehearsal 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8 Fr. Mark at Diocesan Council Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline	9	10 10 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal Noon L&C readers rehearse 3 pm All Parish Christmas Caroling @ WB Care Center followed by Families Inc sponsored supper in the Parish Hall 6 pm Senior High Lock-In
11 7:30/9/10:30 am Eucharist 4 pm Lessons & Carols followed by a Reception in the Parish Hall	12 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	13 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group in the Parish Hall 7 pm Vestry Meeting in the Parlor	14 See Every Wednesday above 10:15 am St. Andrew's Communion 5 pm First Year Confirmation Dinner 7 pm Christmas Pageant & Communion 8 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	15 Large Voice monthly newsletter deadline Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline	16	17
18 7:30/9/10:30 am Eucharist 9 am Christmas Pageant during worship followed by children's activities in the Parish Hall 6 pm Senior High Christmas Party at Alison's until 8 pm	19 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	20 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group in the Parish Hall	21 See Every Wednesday above 11:30 am Retired Men's Group lunch at Keys Restaurant, downtown White Bear Lake 7 pm Jr. High Christmas Party 7 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Good Grief Group in the Fire Place Room	22 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline	23	24 Christmas Eve 4 pm Family Eucharist 10:30 pm Choral Eucharist
25 Christmas Day 10 am Holy Eucharist	26 Office Closed 8 pm Alcoholics Anonymous	27 9 am Tuesday Morning Originals Watercolor Painting Group in the Parish Hall	28 See Every Wednesday above No Confirmation or Youth Group	29 Noon Small Voice bulletin insert deadline	30	31 New Year's Eve Annual Report Deadline 11:30 am Out to Lunch in the Parish Hall 1:30 pm Concession Fundraising Managers, & 2 pm Volunteers, at Xcel Energy Center for the Wild hockey game, followed by New Year's gathering

St John's Lay Liturgical Ministry-December 2005

LAY READER	LECTOR	LEMS	ACOLYTES	USHERS	ALTAR GUILD	VERGER
4 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Colleen Johnson	7:30 Marge Polanek 9:00 Wendy Muscanto 10:30 Josie Power	We 7, 7:00 pm Pris Campbell 7:30 Jane Kyle 9:00 Pris Campbell Susie Mahoney 10:30 Chris Johnson	9:00 Thors Amy Whillock 10:30 Judy Kroesch Sherri Afryl Jeanne LeFevre Brendan Boyle	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Brunners Schneiders 10:30 Jim Hartmeister Mike Gerlach Harnois/Smith Kate Miller	Gere LeTourneau Anne Johnson Jeanne LeFevre Pat Gagin	Cathryn Bashore
11 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Joe Afryl	7:30 June Bennett 9:00 Kim Severson 10:30 Sherri Afryl	We 14, 7:00 pm June Bennett 7:30 Mary Whitney 9:00 Barb VanSteen Greg Schmit 10:30 Dorothy Haas	9:00 Henry Schneider Louis Karp Longs 10:30 Colleen Johnson Peggy Holper Bartleys Brendan Boyle 4:00 Colleen Johnson Sherri Afryl Jeanne LeFevre	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 DeSmets Domins 10:30 Mark Hosfield Johnsons Watkinses 4:00 Alma Limbach Wendy Muscanto Kate Miller Lisa Brock	Mary Whitney Sherri Afryl Lynn Gadbois Barb VanSteen	Jason Knauss
18 7:30 June Bennett 10:30 Chris Johnson	7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Jim Delamater	We 21, 7:00 pm Joe Afryl & Margaret Thor 7:30 Bob Peck 10:30 Jim Delamater	9:00 Henry Schneider Tyler Young Moertels Amy Whillock 10:30 Brent Torgerson Todds Brendan Boyle	7:30 Ken Whitney 9:00 Brunners Canterburys Branbys 10:30 Jim Hartmeister Alma Limbach Wendy Muscanto	Pat Pickering June Hochbrunn Gayle Kasmani Barb Merrill	Chris Hawley
Sa 24 Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Janet Waller 10:30 pm Bob Peck	4:00 pm Maureen Vruno 10:30 pm Wendy Muscanto	4:00 pm Susie Mahoney Greg Schmit 10:30 pm Barb VanSteen	4:00 pm Libby Mahoney Lara DuFresne Larsons Nathan Karp 10:30 pm Colleen Johnson Sherri Afryl Jeanne LeFevre	4:00 pm Jim Hartmeister Pickering's Larsons Lisa Brock 10:30 pm Johnsons	Jane Kyle Cyndi Domin Keiko Farrar Judy Kroesch Alice McClaren	4:00 pm Jason Knauss 10:30 pm Cathryn Bashore
25 Christmas Day 10:00 Dorothy Haas	10:00 Marge Polanek	We 28, 7:00 pm Bob Peck 10:00 Bari Chilton Ed Chilton	10:00 Moertels Emy Marier	10:00 Mark Hosfield Tom Medd Linda Carpenter Mariers	Jane Kyle Cyndi Domin Keiko Farrar Judy Kroesch Alice McClaren	Chris Hawley

GIFTS AND MEMORIALS

The following gifts and memorials have been purchased by the Gift and Memorial Committee or given during the last two years:

A **monetary gift** for the **Adult Education Committee** in memory of Jaya Kasmani

2 cemetery flags and poles, and **cabinets** for Acolyte, Lay Reader and Children's Choir in memory of Roger Smith

a **woven cremation urn pall** gift from Marge Polanek

an **oil stock ring** for unction, in memory of Gil Gehrenbeck, Marion Nelson, Robert Wilson and Liz Campbell

a **rolling memorial service table with a glass top** in memory of LeVere Shisler

a **DVD player** gift from the Dr. John W. Thatcher family

a **pottery communion set** in memory of Donald Smeed and Roger Smith

a **safe** in memory of Betty Shephard

a **vat and aspergillum** (anonymous)

a **monetary gift to the General Operating Fund** in memory of Robert Snell

a **monetary gift to the Cemetery Operating Fund** in memory of Miles Whitney

The committee would like to thank all for the generous gifts and memorial donations to our church.

ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS

Flowers are an important part of our Sunday worship, adding a special touch to our beautiful Sanctuary. Flowers may be given in thanksgiving for birthdays and other special events, or in memory of loved ones. Please consider contributing towards this year's Christmas flowers, or towards the flowers to adorn our altar on any Sunday. Sign up on the chart on the bulletin board in the entrance from the parking lot. Forms are in the rack beneath it. Place a completed form in the Altar Guild mail slot with your check for \$35 made payable to St. John's Altar Guild. Additionally, e-mail what you would like printed in the Small Voice bulletin insert to wilderness2@stjohnwilderness.org by Thursday noon preceding the Sunday of your gift. Call Barb VanSteen with your questions: 651/484-1614

BAZAAR SUCCESS

Thank you to all who were willing to participate in this year's St. John's Holiday Bazaar. Much was accomplished in a short amount of time, which led to a very successful Episcopal Church Women event. Proceeds were approximately \$6,000, to be used by various organizations within the church. Additionally, 30 Beanie Babies were donated to hurricane victims in Mississippi and Louisiana. Many people were welcomed in to our church during the luncheon and sales, and everyone's positive attitude and kindness reflected greatly on our church's atmosphere. Thank you many times over to everyone who donated items and time. Let's make next year's Bazaar even better!

Advent Wreath from <http://www.osp.org.uk/worship/advent.htm>

Sunday 11/27: The first candle reminds us of the patriarchs, Abraham and David, Jesus' Old Testament ancestors.

Sunday 12/4: The second candle reminds us of the prophets, who foretold the birth of Jesus.

Sunday 12/11: The third candle reminds us of John the Baptist, who proclaimed and baptized Jesus in the Jordan.

Sunday 12/18: The fourth candle reminds us of the Virgin Mary, who bore Jesus in her womb.

Sunday 12/25: The fifth candle reminds of the birth of Jesus, God become man.



December Birthdays

- 1 John McLean
- 1 Avis Watkins
- 1 Stella WoiWor
- 2 Judith Kroesch
- 3 Bette Smeed
- 4 Grace McVay
- 5 Sam Bartley
- 5 Keiko Farrar
- 5 Daniel Sullivan
- 5 Emily Waymire
- 7 Andrew Harding
- 7 DeVante Watts
- 8 Korey Brown
- 8 Sarah Korth
- 9 Katie Jeddelloh
- 9 Alma Limbach
- 9 Albert Maiers
- 10 Aleea Eick
- 10 Betty Harholdt
- 13 Pamela Collins
- 15 Martha Wright
- 16 William Beebe
- 16 Alison Feigh
- 16 Libby Mahoney
- 16 Helena Oglesby
- 17 Nancy Maiers
- 17 Wayne Todd
- 18 Bradley Boyle
- 18 Amber Hammond
- 18 John Reed
- 19 Henry Schneider
- 20 Katie Larson
- 21 Wade Cossalter
- 23 Theodore Karp
- 24 Christine Karp
- 24 Stan Kegler
- 25 Jean Watson
- 26 Dorothy Burt
- 27 Jeanne LeFevre
- 30 Carter Ballard
- 30 Kenneth Gildner
- 30 The Rev. Andrew Jensen
- 30 Daniel Racine
- 31 Russell Bailey
- 31 Donald Ware

If you have a birthday this month but are not listed above, please e-mail or telephone the Parish Administrator at the church office. Records are not always complete.

Thank you.

St. John in the Wilderness Student of the Month

Name Lara Delamater

Last good book you've read

Sphere by Michael Crichton

High School Grade Senior

Best advice you've been given

Always look for the silver lining...

School/Community Activities

Alpine Skiing, Habitat for Humanity, Spring Musical



Where you hope to be in 10 years

Involved in medical research (preferably not living with my parents)

Church Activities

Nursery Substitute
Attendant

Favorite Song These

Words by Natasha Bedingfield

If you could have dinner with any person, whom would you choose?

Kevin Garnett

Proudest Moment

Advancing to the State Speech Tournament

How can church become more youth friendly?

Hold a youth led or youth planned service to demonstrate what is important to the kids, like our favorite readings or prayers; that would be a learning experience for all generations.

Collections Minnesota

Timberwolves memorabilia

Favorite St. John's Memory

Rally Sunday eating the Booya

Favorite Movie Rudy

FAMILIES INC. INVITES ALL PARISHIONERS

Join us Saturday, December 10 at 3 pm for Christmas Caroling and supper! We will meet at the White Bear Care Center, inside the main 1891 Florence Street entrance. We will carol around the residents' rooms for a couple of hours, then return to the church at 5 pm for a supper provided by Families Inc. Please bring a few Christmas cookies to share for dessert.

Parents with very young children--come and push your little ones in a stroller or carry them in a Baby Bjorn. The residents will love seeing St. John's members of all ages. Please come and share in this fun event and help bring holiday cheer to others.

RSVP to Beth at ehyduke@comcast.net, or sign up on the Families Inc. board in the Parish Hall so we know how much food to provide.

Four Candidates from St. John in the Wilderness attended Great North Teens Encounter Christ in Virginia, MN on the fourth weekend of October, 2005



The Youth Voice

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Hanging of the Greens

We encourage all youth to come to church on Saturday, December 3rd at 9 am to put up Christmas trees and help hang up the greens. Get your Advent started with a bang and join us.

Senior High Lock In

If you plan to attend the Senior High lock in on Saturday, December 10th please sign up on the youth board and turn in your yellow permission form by Sunday, December 4th. We will host the Senior High youth group from St. Cloud; it sure to be a great event.

We gather at church at 6 pm on December 10th and will conclude after the 9 am service on Sunday the 11th.

Senior High Youth Group

Just a reminder: for the month of December, Senior High Youth Group will meet on the 1st & 3rd Sundays instead of our usual schedule. December 4th will be a traditional meeting at church. December 18th will be our annual Christmas party at Alison's house in St. Paul. Please bring a dish to share and a gift (under \$5) to exchange. Sign up on the youth board if you plan to attend.

Advent Play

We will perform the Advent Play, "Make Room for Christmas" on Wednesday, December 14th at 7 pm and on Sunday the 18th during 9 am worship. At last count, we have 39 children and youth involved in the production in one way or another. All are welcome to see the production we have been working so hard on during our Advent season.

Junior High Christmas Party

We will have our annual Christmas Party on Wednesday, December 21st from 7-8 pm. Please bring a plate of cookies or other snack to share and a gift (under \$5) to exchange. If you have a favorite Christmas song, bring the CD for our mood music.

First Year Confirmation Dinner

A small change to our annual dinner together: please have your parents drop you off at 5 pm at Culver's in White Bear Lake instead of at church. We will eat together and be ready for pick up at 6 pm. Parents are welcome to join us for dinner. This will give the youth involved in the pageant an hour to get back to the church and in costume before the 7 pm show. If your parents don't get off work until after 5 pm, connect with Alison for alternate ride arrangements.

Treasure Hunt

Our FIFTH Annual Treasure Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, January 7th. In this wonderful event junior high youth take on senior high youth in a lighthearted battle of wits and creativity. We will choose captains for this year's hunt at the Christmas parties for each youth group. The youth arrive at church at high noon to receive their lists and head out with adult drivers. Children arrive at church at 1 pm for an in-house, child-friendly treasure hunt. At 2 pm we all gather for a potluck lunch and to watch the judging. All are welcome to join us at 2 pm for the meal and to see which group gets their name engraved on the trophy this year. It's always a memorable afternoon.

Thought for the month

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world - stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death - and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

Henry Van Dyke



Come decorate St. John's for the Christmas season on December 3rd. We will use the ornaments made during the Advent Event to trim the church trees. Watch the Small Voice for more details.

Our St. Nicholas Celebration will be on December 4th. The kids will have special St. Nick activities during Learning Time.

The children's Christmas Pageant will be performed during 9 am worship on December 18th, with a reception following in the Parish Hall. This will take the place of Learning Time.

Children's Ministry wishes you a Merry Christmas!

Join us on January 1st following 10 am worship for a Christmas sing-a-long.

Learning Time will resume on January 8th.

"MAKE ROOM FOR CHRISTMAS"

a play for Advent

Performed by children and youth of St. John in the Wilderness
Wednesday Dec. 14th at 7:00 pm
and Sunday Dec. 18th at 9:00 am
Please join us!



All Saints' Sunday Baptisms
November 6, 2005