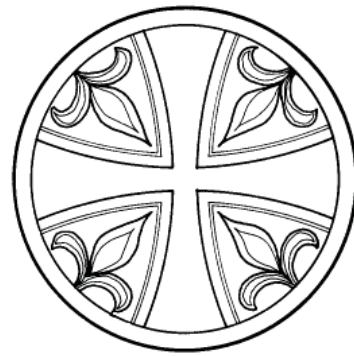


St. John's Newsletter



FOR THE PARISH FAMILY OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Vol. 1, No. 3

January 2011

Entertaining Angels in 2011

A Year of Christian Hospitality and Welcome

by The Rev. David C. Killeen

I am a disciple of Jesus and an Episcopalian in large part as a result of an usher's invitation. I was walking by the aptly-named Grace Church in New York City's Greenwich Village. The usher was standing out front, bulletins in hand. As I passed, we exchanged polite hellos, and then he asked: "Do you want to go to church today?" I looked at my watch, searched my mind for a good excuse to say "thanks, but no thanks," but the truth was that I had nothing else planned that morning. "Sure, why not?" I replied.

The usher shepherded me inside, handed me a bulletin, and gave me a quick orientation to Episcopal liturgy. At first, I was confused by all the books and the sitting, kneeling, and standing. I thought to myself: "These Episcopalians get a workout each Sunday." But I remember being captivated by the glorious music and the excellent sermon, as well as the balance between Word and Sacrament. I went home full of joy that day because I knew I had found a spiritual home that could nourish my faith over the course of my life. I was able to find this home as a result of the usher's invitation. I needed someone to invite me in like Jesus, who once said, "Come and see." A few words, a simple invitation can change a life.

Showing hospitality to others can also change the lives of the hosts. In the Book of Genesis, we read the story of Abraham and Sarah, who are promised by God that they will be the mother and father of a great nation, that their ancestors will be more numerous than the stars in

the sky. But God's promise seems like a cruel joke when the couple reaches old age without children. But then, three travelers stop by the couple's encampment. In the days before hotels, showing hospitality to strangers was a life and death matter. Travelers were vulnerable to the elements and to criminals. Abraham and Sarah hold nothing back. They invite the strangers in, feed them well, and offer them a safe place to stay.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it."

— Hebrews 13:2

After eating, one of the travelers addresses the couple and informs them that they will soon be blessed with children. Sarah laughs out loud because she knows that she is beyond her childbearing years. When the traveler speaks next, Abraham and Sarah sense that they may be talking to someone who is more than just a stranger passing through. He asks them: "Is anything too wonderful for God?" Not long after this conversation, Sarah gives birth to Isaac, a name which means laughter. In retrospect, Abraham and Sarah realize that they were not providing ordinary hospitality to strangers – they were entertaining angels without knowing it. This same theme is echoed in the New Testament in the Book of Hebrews.

During the year of 2011, I would

to invite our parish to focus on entertaining angels by making Christian hospitality and welcome the central theme that binds together our worship, ministries, and programs. I would like to officially adopt this theme at our annual meeting on January 30. St. John's is already a parish that is known for hospitality, so by focusing on this theme, we are building on a strength. Newcomers often tell me that they are struck by the warmth of our congregation, and we open our campus to "outside" groups every day. The good news is that St. John's is already entertaining angels.

But St. John's is also a church that needs to grow. In a parish of our size, we need to work together to put in place a system where newcomers are seen and treated as if they are angels sent from God. We can't afford to allow anyone to slip through the cracks. But more than that, each one of us needs to take the initiative to serve as ambassadors for Christ and St. John's, our spiritual home. When we are at home, like that usher who invited me into Grace Church, we don't think twice before inviting others inside so that we can care for them.

St. John's will grow with strong clergy leadership, but it will really grow when each member of our parish takes ownership in welcoming family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, and strangers into our midst. When you and I make room for others and invite them in, God's promise to us is that we may also be entertaining angels without even knowing it.

Register Now for Retreat with Ftr. William Meninger

by Dee Crusoe

As mentioned in the November newsletter, Father William Meninger, a Trappist monk at St. Benedict's Monastery, Snowmass, Colorado, and internationally known teacher, author, and retreat master, will be in Tallahassee on February 23 -27 giving lectures, presenting workshops, and preaching.

The event schedule includes:

Feb. 23 ~ Julian of Norwich Lecture, 6:30 to 8 p.m., at St. John's. Supper available at 5:30 p.m; please make reservations.

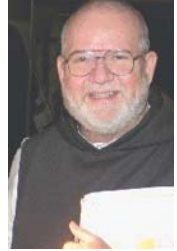
Feb. 24 ~ The Mystic in the Marketplace Lecture, 7 to 8 p.m. Presbyterian University Center, Florida State University Campus.

Feb. 25 ~ Christian Transformation Workshop – The Enneagram as a Tool, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at St. John's. Lunch available; please make reservations.

Feb. 26 ~ Centering Prayer Workshop, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Good Shepherd Catholic Church. Lunch available; please make reservations.

Feb. 27 ~ Guest Preacher, 11 a.m. Worship Service, Faith Presbyterian Church, Forgiveness Workshop, 1 to 4 p.m. Faith Presbyterian Church.

A free will offering will be accepted at each event. Registration is requested for planning purposes. Registration form is available at the church office or by contacting Dan Dobbins at dobbins@nettally.com or 322-8716 or Dee Crusoe at djcrusoe@embarqmail.com or 668-1083.



Ftr. Minenger

Mark your calendar Now!

Annual Parish Meeting Sunday, January 30

Potluck lunch begins at 12 p.m. with Parish Meeting at 1 p.m.

The Parish Meeting provides us an opportunity to gather for a meal and fellowship as well as be updated on the state of St. John's. So many exciting things are happening and you won't want to miss hearing about our vision for 2011.



Watch The Chimes for more information!

Childcare will be available.

Wednesday Evenings (Classes Begin January 12)

Dinner 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.

(Please call 222-2636, Ext. 31 to make dinner reservations each week.)

All Classes 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Childcare available.

Awakening the Holy Spirit Within Through Christian Meditation (Centering Prayer) - This class explores the history, foundations, methods, processes, and outcomes of Christian Meditation (Centering Prayer) using materials (including videos) from Thomas Keating, The Contemplative Outreach Organization, etc. Text to be used is Open Mind/Open Heart by Thomas Keating. Barbara Morrison, Facilitator. (The Parlor)

The Theology of C.S. Lewis - For Lewis, theology is not abstract speculation, but a practical tool-kit for the Christian life. We will look at Book IV of Mere Christianity, and his mythic fantasy, The Great Divorce. In these works, Lewis explores the relevance of some central tenets of the Nicene Creed to our hopes and aspirations as practicing Christians. Dr. David McNaughton, facilitator. (Cobb Library)

Sermon on the Mount - Bible Basics featuring an in-depth examination of the Sermon on the Mount. The first few weeks of the class will be spent on basic Bible themes, *i.e.* creation, separation, redemption, salvation. The later weeks will be spent on a brief explanation of the Gospel of Matthew and then to an in-depth examination of the Sermon on the Mount. Facilitator, Geoff Schwartz, facilitator. (2nd Upstairs Classroom)

Entertaining Angels: Christian Hospitality and Welcome - Father Dave Killeen, facilitator - This class gets its name from the verse in Hebrews: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." (13:2). The class will look at the themes of Christian hospitality by studying Scripture, ancient Christian writers, and contemporary practitioners of exemplary hospitality ministries. It will also apply what we have learned to our own parish, particularly our newcomers' ministries, so that we can become a "magnetic" church that draws and retains new members. (1st Upstairs Classroom)

Special Wednesday Night Offerings

**Visit from Ftr. William Meninger, Trappist Monk
Presentation on "Julian of Norwich," February 23
6:30 p.m. in the Nave of the Church.**

The Tallahassee community is welcome.

Regular Wednesday night classes will not meet February 23.

**Ftr. Killeen and Pastor Copeland Lenten Program
March 9 - April 20**

Please join us on Wednesdays during Lent for special Wednesday evening presentations
by Ftr. Killeen and Pastor Copeland of First Presbyterian Church.

Regular Wednesday night classes will not meet during Lent.

Special Friday Night Offering

**Christian Transformation Workshop - The Enneagram as a Tool
Friday, February 25, From 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

How would you describe your personality? Are you a reformer? A helper? An achiever? An individualist? An investigator? A loyalist? An enthusiast? A challenger? A peacemaker? The Enneagram Workshop provides a lighthearted, interactive, and insightful way of learning to know yourself and others by helping you to understand your motivations, your strengths, and your weaknesses. It is a wonderful tool for helping you along your spiritual journey. Ftr. William Meninger conducts the workshop in a manner that will evoke lots of smiles and laughter.

Fran's Best Loved Recipes

Parish favorites from Fran Doxsee, Culinary Director of The Lively Café at St. John's

Fran's Fabulous Corn Bread

1 package Jiffy Corn Muffin Mix	1 stick melted butter	Mix all ingredients together.
2 eggs	1 small can corn	Pour into a greased 9" x 12" pan.
1 cup sour cream	1 small can creamed corn	Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

The Lively Café at St. John's is open from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.



St. John's Chapter of the Daughters of the King recently installed its new officers and chaplain. From left to right are Ellen Sloyer, secretary; Anna Bailey, prayer secretary; Fr. Dave Killeen, chaplain; Lana Johnson, president; Mary Flanagan, treasurer; and Ginny Smoller, vice president.

Book Review: *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*

by Marty and John Larson

While spending an unforgettable week at Chautauqua in the summer of 2006, we had an opportunity to meet Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor and to hear her preach at each morning's worship service. Dr. Taylor is a gifted author and speaker, the only woman named to Baylor University's list of the world's top 12 "most effective" English-speaking preachers. Baptized Catholic and graduate from Emory University and Yale Divinity School, in 1984 she became one of the first women ordained in the Episcopal Church USA. Her book, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* (HarperSanFrancisco 2006), is an enlightening look at her trials as a parish priest and her decision to leave the ministry to find greater meaning in her life.

The book is divided into three

parts: "Finding," "Losing," and "Keeping." Taylor's story begins with her desire (at age 40) to leave the staff of a large urban church (All Saints' in Atlanta). Her search for a new life led her to become the rector at a small rural church (Grace Calvary) in Clarkesville, Georgia. The demands on a parish priest overwhelmed her, however, and within a few years she left both the church and the priesthood, a decision that she struggled to understand and accept. "By leaving church, I was about to leave everything I knew how to do and be." Finally, she accepted a position teaching religion at Piedmont College, a small liberal arts school in northeast Georgia (where she is now professor of philosophy and religion).

Taylor, who as a child "fell in love with God" and with the

beauty of nature (very evident in her Chautauqua sermons), describes how the constant stress of her parish ministry – "compassion fatigue," she calls it – came between her heart and God. She presents her career crisis in positive terms, however, and concludes that she is better able to commune with God in her new life without a collar. Taylor also muses about the power structures of the organized church in general and about the hierarchical pressures in the Episcopal Church in particular.

Taylor is a talented and compelling writer (having now authored 12 books), and *Leaving Church* is a delightful and easy read. Her most recent book is *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* (HarperOne 2009).



2011 Church Music Conference Hymn Festival

Thursday, January 27 at 7 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church

Featuring:

- Bruce Neswick, director of cathedral music and organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York
- The Orlando Deanery Choirs, Cathedral of St. Luke, Orlando, Claire Hodge and Benjamin Lane, directors
- Combined Senior Choristers, St. John's Episcopal and First Presbyterian Churches

Free and open to the public



Stephen Ministry: An Effective Ministry at St. John's for 15 Years!

by Cricket Mannheimer

With 50 hours of training, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Stephen Ministers help people find Christ in time of crisis. They study the art of listening, sensing others' feelings, compassionate assertiveness, crisis theory and intervention, AND maintaining confidentiality. Effective listening, telephone care, and praying with people one-on-one helps them find guidance from the Bible. Currently at St. John's we have 10 active Stephen Ministers

providing spiritual guidance in and around our congregation. Our number one goal is to be a source of hope through Jesus Christ.

During this holiday season, pray. Would you benefit by having a Stephen Minister in your life during this time? Or maybe you would like to sign up for the training, which will be held in the spring. For more information, just pick up the phone and call Mother Phoebe, 850/222-2636.

Cold Night Overflow Shelter

by Charles Deal

Along with six other churches, St. John's has chosen to assist the Big Bend Homeless Coalition with its Cold Night Overflow Shelter. We have 18 volunteers promising to report to the former Belle Vue Middle School's gymnasium, which is dedicated as an overflow shelter.

Approximately three volunteers welcome and check in the homeless who find themselves without a place to spend a cold night indoors (temperature "feeling like" or colder than 35 degrees).

Additionally, volunteers set up cots, provide blankets and towels,

and direct guests to bathrooms and showers.

After he is advised of a cold weather prediction, Rev. Brant Copeland, pastor of First Presbyterian, notifies St. John's that we are needed to manage the overflow shelter at 2214 Belle Vue Way.

Our assignment is to be available each Monday night. Volunteers are alerted via email and a phone call.

The homeless are brought to the school gym from The Shelter at 480 W. Tennessee St. by Star-Metro, arriving about 8:45 p.m. A second bus, if needed, arrives

about 9:45 p.m. Volunteers are asked to report to the school at 8:15 p.m. and are expected to stay until 11 p.m.

The Big Bend Homeless Coalition staff, headed up by Jeff Franck, remains on site with the homeless, until their departure in the following morning.

To volunteer, call the church office or contact Charles Deal, volunteer coordinator, who can also answer questions, at (850) 325-1334 or email charles.deal@comcast.net.

The Cold Night Overflow Shelter for the Homeless will operate through February 2011.

Inquiry 501

by Margie Watkins

Newcomers are encouraged to join Inquiry 501 reconvening on Sunday evenings beginning January 9 from 5 until 7 p.m. Inquiry 501, aka The Catechumenal Process, is an opportunity for people interested in becoming members of the Episcopal Church to explore the Episcopal Church and the Christian journey of faith. There are varied presentations offered each week with in-depth and sometimes hands-on opportunities for learning. This class offers an opportunity to ask questions, to explore your own journey of faith, and to gain information and tools for furthering your spiritual growth.

Each evening offers a time for learning, time for fellowship, time

for small group Bible study, and worship. This is a safe place for one to celebrate and share their understanding of relationship with God and to hear where others may be in their own exploration.

Inquiry explores liturgy, the sacraments, Holy Scripture, prayer, tradition, theology, and much more.

Participation prepares one for baptism, confirmation, reception from another liturgical tradition,



Ftr. Dave speaks with newcomers.

or reaffirmation of baptismal vows. Adult catechumens (those preparing for baptism) will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. The bishop's annual visitation will take place on Pentecost and others will be presented at that time.

St. John's Office Lights

by Virginia Perkins

Did you notice that our beautiful brass seven-branched candelabra that sit on the altar were missing but are now back? In the event that you were wondering what happened to them and why, the answer is that they were sent to Wiebold Studio, Inc., an art and antique restoration business in Cincinnati, Ohio. Carefully packed and sent by UPS to Cincinnati, the candelabra, beautifully repaired and restored, were back in time for Christmas. The restorer in Cincinnati estimated that the candelabra are approaching 100 years of age, certainly time for some restoration work, especially since they had become unstable.

How did St. John's acquire these office or service lights and just what is their purpose? Office lights are to be used in an authorized version of worship either public or private and in morning, evening, or communion services. The use of candles on the altar is an ancient reminder of a time when the church was driven underground to the catacombs, and candles were the only light by which to see. The style of our candelabra is a wide inverted V which can be moved inward to make a narrower V. It



Photo by Fred Kreimer

is possible that they were once used in a diagonal position. Various traditions suggest why each candelabrum holds seven candles such as a representation of the seven days of creation or the seven days of the week.

Our candelabra were a gift to St. John's in memory of William Kelly Beard and his wife, Letitia Shepard Gamble Beard. We do not have a record of who made the gifts, but most likely they were given by their children. The inscriptions read, "To the Glory of God and in loving memory of William Kelly Beard, Born Sep 12, 1831, Died Aug 15, 1882" and "To the Glory of God and in memory of Letitia Shepard Beard, Born Nov 17, 1837, Died Nov 12, 1921." They are both buried in the St. John's Cemetery. The

Beards were one of the early families in Tallahassee and *God Willing: A History of St. John's Episcopal Church* states that Dr. Carter, St. John's rector from 1879 to 1907, listed in his diary a visit at the Beard home. William was born in North Carolina and Letitia, the daughter of Robert and Letitia Gamble, was born in Tallahassee. William Beard served as Lt. colonel in the 1st Florida Regiment of the Confederate Army.

Youth Ministry

by Randy Winton

As we approach the new year, it's a great time to get involved with our youth ministry programs. We have two fantastic age groups – JR EYC, 6th- 8th grades, and SR EYC, 9th – 12th grades. If you have youth in these age groups, please make plans for them to get to know other youth and attend our Sunday and Wednesday evening events.

General Youth Ministry Calendar for January:

Sunday, January 2 – No Sunday School or Youth Ministry events.

Sunday, January 16 – Sunday School and Confirmation begins. EYC groups meet in evening.

Wednesday, January 12, 19, 26 – Wednesday night dinner and programs begin on the 12th. DIVE Bible studies meet downstairs from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 16 – EYC groups meet at regular times.

Sunday January 23 – E.A.Y. (Episcopal Area Youth) meets at St. John's at 3 p.m.

Sunday January 30 – No EYC Groups – Happening weekend at Camp Weed.

Confirmation Classes – Our teenage confirmation classes will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour at 10:15 a.m. for all 9th – 12th grade students. For more information about these classes, please check the youth website at www.saint-john-youth.org. Classes begin Sunday, January 16 and Bishop Howard will be at St. John's to confirm our youth and adults on Sunday, June 12.



HAPPENING COMING UP – Happening is a wonderful weekend for teenagers at Camp Weed. The next Happening weekend is January 21 – 23, and spots are available for candidates (participants) in 10th – 12th grades. Kathleen Gray, a member of St. John's EYC, is the rector (teen leader) of the weekend. Please pray for Kathleen and the rest of the youth who participate.

Church Calendar*

January 2011

Sun, Jan 2 - Services at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

Mon, Jan 3 - Office and Cafe open normal hours

Tues, Jan 4 - Schools resume

Wed, Jan 5 - Epiphany Pageant and dinner

Wed, Jan 12 - Wednesday night dinner / Classes resume

Mon, Jan 17 - Martin Luther King holiday for schools / Church and Cafe closed

Fri, Jan 21 - Senior Luncheon / Diocesan Convention begins

Thurs, Jan 27 - Hymn Fest / Night Prayer

Sun, Jan 30 - Parish Meeting

February 2011

Fri, Sat, Feb 4-5 - Vestry Retreat

Tues, Feb 8 - Village Square

Fri, Feb 18 - Senior Luncheon

Sun, Feb 20 - Organ Recital / Choral Evening

Wed, Feb 23 - Meninger Dinner / Class

Fri, Feb 25 - Meninger Retreat

* Please see *The Chimes and the website*, www.saint-john.org, for a detailed calendar of activities and meetings.

St. John's Celebrates the Season

Reception Following Lessons and Carols



Staff Skit at Senior Luncheon



Photography by Phil Ashler

Christmas Caroling for Youth and Adults



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More St. John's Photos of the Season Senior Luncheon



Transitions

Member Births

Isabella Jane Weldon, 12/27/10
daughter of Geof and Rebekah Weldon

James Grant Hoelsing, 12/22/10
son of Peter and Jennifer Hoelsing

Deaths of Members, Previous Members, and Family Members

Shirley E. Broen, December 2, 2010

Joyce Coombs, December 2, 2010

Mary Louise Rosenvold, December 7, 2010

Elizabeth Gray, mother of Melvin Gray, December 7, 2010

Mary Hamilton Meginniss Harris, December 16, 2010