



THE HOLY BABBLE

January 7 — February 3



Every year when the New Year rolls around, I have a certain rejuvenation and I begin to clean out drawers, fix up things that I have neglected, and just generally, work on getting my home, work, and life more in order. I try to be more efficient, using my resources in the best possible way. It is a great feeling to treat this time of year as a new beginning, one where we put that which does not serve God best behind and start over again with hopes for a brighter future. With that in mind, I started thinking about what changes could be made that would be pleasing to God. Immediately, Eucharistic Prayer C came to mind. In it, the celebrant proclaims that at God's command "all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home." It goes on to say that "from the primal elements You (God) brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust." As far as our resources are concerned, our current society has not been a good steward of all that God created and left to our care. We have experienced an affluence that has often blinded us to very basic ways that we can safeguard this fragile earth. We have used disposable products that now lie in waste areas for years to come, and we have thrown away that which could be used again. We have reprinted words that are in books that we already possess just for our own convenience, and we have made purchases for something as simple as a donut at higher prices, just because that is where we always bought them. But we are beginning to turn all that around. Just over Advent and Christmas some of our very talented parishioners found ways to decrease the costs of flowers and decorating for the church during those seasons. Their artistic gifts not only adorned our holy worship space in beautiful ways, but also gave us the idea this can be an ongoing aspect of stewardship throughout the year. We intend to take advantage of that ministry in a positive and meaningful way. Here are a few other examples of how we at St. John's intend to start the New Year as rulers of God's creation in a manner that is acceptable to God. First, we will attempt to preserve our natural resources, such as trees, by printing only one Holy Babble a month. We'll have to work a little harder to get our news in by the deadline each month, but we still have all this information in our e-newsletter and a weekly calendar in our service bulletin. Two years ago, in an effort to evangelize new members, we decided to print a full service bulletin, which precluded the use of our beautiful Book of Common Prayer. Next Sunday, 18 January, we will return to a service bulletin that references the Book of Common Prayer. I will also lead the congregation by announcing page numbers when needed. Your job will be to assist any newcomer who might not understand how we go about the liturgy using that book. This form of evangelism is far more effective than just handing someone a ready made bulletin. We need to reach out and contact those who are interested in our church, and this is a perfect way to start. Also, if you would like to contribute donuts, cookies, or other snacks for Sunday mornings, the cooking abilities of most parishioners far surpass any store bought food. We're not going to take away the donuts or the flowers, or any other thing that we can provide when we use our own creative means to provide them. The changes that I have mentioned above are not exhaustive. In fact, you all may have other ideas. Please do not hesitate to contact me or your vestry with ways in which we can improve our stewardship of what God has so generously given us. I also encourage you to consider your stewardship of your own home, as well. I remember quite well as a child watching my mother tear a Kleenex in half and put the other half in her pocket. She could have well afforded to use part and throw it away, but she did not believe in waste of any kind. What we do not waste, whether in financial, human, or natural resources can be a real gift for our present and our future as the stewards of God's creation.

The Reverend Marti Dalby +

Upcoming Events



The Saint's Alive Christmas get together: will be held on Saturday, January 24, at the home of Mary Jane Mustard at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share, and your favorite beverage. Feel free to park in the front or back of the house and enter in either door.

SAINT'S ALIVE 2009 SCHEDULE

The 2009 schedule to host Saint's Alive will be posted on the bulletin board on your right as you enter the Parish Hall. This adult group meets for a social get together once a month at the hosts choice of dates for food, fun, and fellowship. As a host, you provide your home, soft drinks, and table ware. If you would like to host this group, please sign your name and phone number next to the month that would be convenient for you. You will be contacted for details.



Girl's Night Out : will be at TGI Friday's on Tuesday, January 27 at 6:30 pm. Take a night off and join us!!

The restaurant doesn't take reservations so please **call Bettye Fields** at **(452-2637)**

and let her know your intent to come so that enough table space can be allocated at the restaurant.



Annual Parish Meeting

St. John's Annual Parish Meeting will be on January 25, 2009 at 9am in St. John's Parish Hall.



Backpack Program: Don't forget to pick up something for the backpack program.

Donations are always welcome. Suggestions are any individually wrapped, non-perishable items such as fruit cups, Jell-O cups, Vienna sausages, beanie weenies, granola bars, juice boxes, snack cakes, etc.

Thanks to those who have contributed.

Upcoming Events

- Jan. 09: Episcopal Café Weekend Retreat, 6:30pm
- Jan. 11: 2nd Sunday service, 5pm
- Jan. 13: Vestry Meeting, 5:30pm
- Jan. 14: LOGOS at 1st Pres., 4pm
- Jan. 15: Episcopal Café meetings move to St. John's, 6:30pm
- Jan. 17: Worldwide Mom's Day of Prayer, 9am at Community Bible Church, 9201 Dallas St., Ft. Smith
- Jan. 19: Deadline for Annual Reports
- Jan. 20: SAHMs (Stay At Home Moms) 10:30am
- Jan. 24: Saint's Alive, 6:30pm at the home of Mary Jane Mustard
- Jan. 25: St. John's Annual Meeting, 9am
- Jan. 27: Girls Night Out, at TGI Friday's at 6:30pm
- Jan. 30: Laymen's League, noon
- Feb. 01: 1st Sunday Breakfast, 9am
- Feb. 20-21: Diocesan Convention, Trinity Cathedral, LR



Laymen's League

The laymen haven't met since the last day in October, when we enjoyed a wonderful meal of Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, fried potatoes, salad, and desert. November and December are so full of holidays and other celebrations that we don't meet in those months.

The next meeting of St. John's Laymen will be on Friday, January 30th at noon in the Skinner building. The menu will be pork loin, mashed potatoes & gravy, English peas, rolls, and desert. Please come and enjoy fellowship together.



St. John's Directory Updates:

Correction:

Willis & Sara Edmiston
8404 Hannah Court
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Changes:

Sally Bowers
6400 S. Lakewood
Van Buren, AR 72956

Contribution Statements



Statements for 2008 contributions will be mailed in the near future. Please compare this report with your records, verifying that all contributions were recorded, and applied as you designated.

If there is a discrepancy in your statement, please follow the instruction at the top of the form.

Harold Braswell
Financial Secretary
479 782 9912

Pledge Payment via Bank Draft

Reminder: you may enter this plan at any time, simply by completing an authorization form. Enroll now for a 2009 draft on the 15th, and/or last business day of each month.

Give me a call (479-782-9912), or e-mail, hbraswell@stjohnfs.org for an enrollment form.

Harold Braswell

Holy Babble Future Issues

Beginning January 7, the Holy Babble will be published once a month in an effort to be better stewards of our resources. The newsletter will be mailed out the first Wednesday of every month. The deadline for articles will be the Friday before, which this time will be January 2. Articles can be called in or emailed to the church office at 782-9912 or vphelan@stjohnfs.org. If your articles are not submitted by the deadline we will be unable to include them.

Search Committee: If you have a name you would like to submit for nomination as our priest-in-charge position, please contact one of the committee members; Harold MacDowell, Farrah Fielder, Sandra Kilpatrick, Al Snider, Roney Rouse or one of the following:

Bishop Benfield bishopbenfield@mac.com
Dan McKee dmckee@arkansas.anglican.org

Or their toll free number is 1-866-887-1114

To the Members of St. John's

My family would like to extend a special thanks for all your support, prayers and aid to help us out in a very trying time of our lives. Barb and I have had a difficult time this past year due to Barbara's illness, mounting medical bills and stress dealing with our mortgage company. We also owned a Laundromat in Van Buren that we had to close in November because Barbara could no longer physically work the hours to keep it open. Thankfully I have a job that is stable even in this economy and have been there 22 years so we at least have one stable income to support us. The income however is not enough to continue living in the house that I designed and built 12 years ago. The house is scheduled to be foreclosed on January 20th 2009 at which time we had to be gone. Thanks to your prayers and financial support we were able to purchase a new home which is a mobile home on 4 acres in Cedarville. I never thought I would see the day that I would be overjoyed to move from a 2400 square foot home to an 840 square foot mobile home. This has taught me and my family what is really important in life and that is that family and friends are the most precious things to cherish in life and Love is the one thing we carry into the next life. Jeannie McCabe reminded me of something; sometimes in our lives we experience a "cataclysmic shift of perspective". Barb and I both have college degrees and have been taught since our youth that the way to achieve the American dream was to gather as much wealth and material things as you can to prove your success. We both now have a totally different perspective which is what we can do for our fellow man is what defines our success in life. Thank you St. John's for your support and prayers, we will do what ever we can to support our Church and fellow man from now on. I look across the street and see those who are truly struggling with life and count myself so blessed that my family will have a roof over our heads and the main reason we will be able to do so is because of the support the members of this Church has given us. May God continue blessing St. Johns and all that it does for our community and members. I especially thank God for bringing my family to this wonderful and caring Christian family who truly knows how to take care of one another.

Thank You Always
Joe, Barbara and Joshua Roam

Church News



Episcopal Café: 1/9/09-1/10/09 Weekend Retreat at Camp McCabe. Join us for a relaxing overnight to the McCabe family lake house! We'll leave from St. John's at 6:30pm and will return by 7pm the next evening. Please RSVP by Thursday, Jan. 8th to Molly!

Thursday Meetings will resume on January 15th at St. John's!



Bookstore News: Christmas Cards are on sale. A small selection is left, so come by soon and get your cards.

Featured Artisans: Alice and Danny McBride - Country Quilts - Come by and see the beautiful quilts that this couple makes. Some great baby quilts; the perfect gift for the newborn. If you need information about getting an heirloom-piece-quilt quilted, the McBride's can help you with this task.

ECW Display: There are some gift items on display in the Bookstore that are being sold exclusively for ECW. All money goes directly to the ECW. Coffee is one item in the display with a great price. Come by now and make your choice. Please make checks payable to ECW.

The Bookstore made a donation to the St. John's ECW on Sunday, Nov 23 in the amount of \$500.00. The ECW ministry is a good steward of the gifts they receive. Good work ladies! Have a great Advent!



Diocesan Convention, February 20-21, Trinity Cathedral, Little Rock, AR

We need three delegates and three alternates to go to the Diocesan convention. If you're interested please call the church office or Louise Watts.



FOOD FIESTA

If you would be interested in chairing the next Food Fiesta fund raiser, please contact Mary Ann Arnold at 452-1359 for more details.



Congratulations! Pettus Kincannon, 2008 Spirit of the Frontier Awards winner.



The staff of St. John's would like to thank everyone for the wonderful Christmas gifts. We've enjoyed the gifts and the treats! You are so nice to remember us during the very busy Christmas season. May God bless each of you in this new year.

Marti, Jeannie, Harold, Millie, Gordon, Steve & Vickie



Over 60 Volunteer In Sack Lunch Program

Over 60 volunteers sack and serve breakfasts and lunches each week at the Sack Lunch Program. These volunteers are known as Wise Sackers, in honor of Mary Wise. In addition to St John's members and their friends, Wise Sackers come from St. Bart's, the Kiwanis Club, Latter Day Saints Relief Fund, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, First Presbyterian Church, a South Side High School service club, and a church group from Roland, OK known as the "Bod Squad".

There are nine Wise Sacker Crews a week, preparing 50-100 sandwiches a shift. There are 11 Serving Crews a week. Mr. Tom Calerera (owner of Taliano's) and his family, serve sack lunches on Tuesdays. They bring hot, homemade soup to pass out with sack lunches to the noon time lunch crowd. Mr. Caldera and his family have been handing out soup and sack lunches for over four years.

One More Server Needed for the Harper's Wise Sackers Saturday Serving Crew

The Sack Lunch Program is in need of servers, ½ hour on Saturday, just one Saturday a month.



Fern and Bernie Harper and Mae Reagor have volunteered to serve lunches, one Saturday a month, but they need some more volunteers to serve the other Saturdays.

Saturday, 11:30AM-12noon

1st Saturday of the Month: Fern & Bernie Harper

2nd Saturday of the Month: Mae Reagor

3rd Saturday of the Month: Mae Reagor

4th Saturday of the Month: _____

Call Fern or Bernie Harper (452-0301) or Jean T. Kolljeski (996-7230) to sign up.

Worldwide Mom's Day of Prayer

Saturday, January 17, 2009 from 9 a.m. — 3 p.m., Community Bible Church, 9201 Dallas St., Ft. Smith, AR

This day is specifically set aside across the world for women to come together to pray for their children, the children of their area and children around the world. Each hour will be led by Christian Prayer Leaders from different denominations. Join us at any time during the day. For more information contact: Rebecca Brown at Rebecca@jimmybell.com



Our Condolences to:

Angela Covey family on the loss of her mother, Queenie Hudson.

H.L. Hembree family on the loss of his wife, Janelle.

The family of Elizabeth Self.

Bill England family on the loss of his wife, Ann.

Millie Schrader on the loss of her cousin, Gary Hanning.



St. John's Episcopal Church

Kid's Korner

January 7, 2009 ♦ Volume 6, Issue 1

Youth Web site: <http://www.stjohnfs.org/youth/index.html>

Ministry Focus/Symbol: E HWY (eee high-way) E-ducation H-ome W-orship Y-outh Groups

E - ducation



Connecting to God...

...Gathering in the Atrium

The "atrium" is a designated sacred space for the purpose of learning about and connected to God. A trained catechist facilitates the activity within the atrium. Some of these "activities" are: Worship that includes individuals praying and learning to pray; singing; listening to teachings; choosing work with teaching manipulatives in Montessori style.

The lessons presented in the atrium are developmentally designed to build upon one another and reveal the love and care God has for each us and has had throughout history. The manipulatives are objects (figurines, books, drawings, or activities) that the children can handle over and over again to reinforce teaching and experience anew each time it is their chosen work.

The first lesson taught and the basis for the curriculum is "The Good Shepherd."

As presented in the curriculum, the content is drawn from the parable of The Good Shepherd (John 10): "God loves us and cares for us. We can have a relationship with God – like a parent. God knows our name. Sheep know His voice and follow God because sheep know HIS voice – by listening, by being with us. Good Shepherd lays down his life for them – meets our every need. (cont.)

H - ome



ST. John's Family Night

BOWLING NIGHT—Jan. 31

At Bowling World
6100 S. 36th Street
(just of Zewro St. Exit/I-540)
4: 5 PM –6:30 pm

- ♦ Join us to bowl from 4:30 6:00 and Pizz to follow.
- ♦ Childcare will be provided in party room for the infants/toddlers and bumper lanes for kids.
- ♦ Bowling for 1.5 hours is \$5.50 p + tax /person...includes shoe rental.
- ♦ Please RSVP Church office on online e-vite with number of adults and children attending so plans can be made accordingly.

Sheepfold is infinite. God has a plan to unite all the sheep. There is one Shepherd. God is constant – like the Shepherd is always with his sheep. "Eternal changelessness" Shepherd protects us.

It's purpose is: To introduce Jesus as the Good Shepherd and to explore this loving relationship with God as revealed in this parable.

IT IS IMPORTANT for us to make time, take time, and give *our* time to provide opportunities for our children to discover their divine connection to God.

Sadly, our culture does NOT encourage the presence, exploration, or experience of spiritual matters: Divine presence and intervention; quiet, community We are showered with : "I WANT" - "RIGHT NOW" "Value is based on what you HAVE (in the material sense)" "ACTIVITY(IES) are to fill our every wakeful moment".

How BUSY is YOUR schedule? Is this the lifestyle you want to pass on to your children? When was the last time you peacefully enjoyed time with your child or family? Is God every mentioned in your household? What are your children learning from watching your life?



W-orship

JAN	11	18	25
<i>server</i>	Katie Kilpatrick	Joe Lawson	Ashley Flippin
<i>asst</i>	Drake Gilbreath	Storm Basinger	Sarah Flippin
<i>crucifer</i>	Dylan Gilbreath	Rush Basinger	Amara Lowe
<i>clergy</i>	Kristen Love	August Ladd	Catherine Ward
<i>torch</i>	Will Robinson	Matheson Ladd	K.C. Ward
<i>torch</i>	Wyatt Robinson	Ryan Davis	Grace Lowe

PLEASE CALL!!!
 if you are **NOT**
 able to serve
 when scheduled!!!
 Please call
 Robin Flippin 484-7269,
 Jeannie McCabe 221-4032, \

Y-outh Groups

Winterstar Weekends

At **CAMP MITCHELL**

Jr. High—Jan. 30-Feb. 1

Sr. High — Feb. 27-Mar. 2



Regis. Deadlines/ forms TO JEANNIE:

*Jr. High—Jan. 14 * Sr. High —Feb. 18*

Cost: \$90—Scholarships Available

STARS (S-piritual T-eens A-re R-adical) -

6th-8th gr Meets weekly: Sundays, 3:30-5:30



NEXT MEETING:

Jan. 11 3:30—5:00 Skinner Bldg.

5:00—2nd Sunday Service

FISH (F-aith I-nspires S-piritual H-ealth)

9th-12th grades—Weekly: Sundays 5:00-7:00

JAN. 11— 5:00-7:00

2nd Sunday Service & Dinner

LOGOS - K - 6th Grade—

Spring Begins Jan. 14

Wednesdays 4:00-6:45 pm at First Presbyterian

- Register NOW...On St. John's Website/Youth Page

This is a partnership ministry with First Presbyterian.

THEMES: Feb. 4 –Friends/Campfire

Jan. 14—New Year Feb. 11 Valentine's Day

Jan. 21-Crazy Hair Feb. 18 Mardi Gras

Jan. 28-Souper Bowl Feb. 25 Movie Night

You are I nvited
 To Celebrate and Welcome
 Our Newest Family Members



Catherine Randall
 &
 Sydney Randall
 Daughters of
 Larry & Stephanie Randall

Baptism—January 11, 2009
 10:30 Service

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- ◆ Jan. 11—2nd Sunday Service 5:00
- ◆ Jan. 25 —Youth Annual Mtg. Presentation
- ◆ Jan. 30-Feb. 1—Jr. High Winterstar
- ◆ Feb. 27-Mar 1—Sr. High Winterstar

COME—BRING IDEAS for SPRING!!

2000 x  = 

(4 Filled Peace Pipes) 500 Heifer
1 Already FILLED!!!
Helping one family have a better quality of life
Through Heifer Project International

VISION STATEMENT FOR ST. JOHN'S

***Our Mission is, "Sharing God's Love
Through Church and Community"***

A Welcoming Church that is inclusive and accepts people wherever they are on their spiritual journey.

A Compassionate Church that provides pastoral care for all and respects the dignity of every person.

An Outreach Church that shares God's love through outreach programs and seeks to know God's purpose for the Church and takes decisive actions to carry out His will.

A Traditional Church that celebrates God's goodness and love through worship in the Episcopal tradition.

An Empowering Church that helps people discover their individual gifts for ministry and then utilize those gifts to follow God's will in their every day lives.

A Teaching Church that instructs by word and deed, to follow Jesus Christ as a way of life.

A Giving Church that is passionate about stewardship; committed to the tithe as the minimum biblical standard of giving and encourages its members to give a generous portion of their time, talents and financial resources back to God.

A Church With a Variety of Programs for all ages, emphasizing a strong youth program, which helps deepen our relationship with Christ, each other and our community.

Vestry Members

Louise Watts, Sr. Warden	782-9290
David Arnold	452-1359
Christine Davis, Treasurer	648-2817
Julia Dobbins	452-5388
Richard Falkner, Jr. Warden	452-5396
Farah Fielder, Clerk	478-9779
Harry Foltz	452-2698
John Hamill	782-4882
Jim Horton	484-5883
Steve Kilpatrick	452-9931
Chad Lowe	478-6242
Al Snider	452-4027
Nancy Sparks	918-775-2898
Sally Vick	478-6477
Norman Ward	474-1053

PASTORAL CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Mary Ann Arnold – Team Leader – 452-1359
Neighbor to Neighbor Coordinator
Bereavement Committee Food
Susan Horton– Eucharistic Visitors – 484-5883
Bettye Fields – Cards and Historian – 452-2637
Barbara Hanna – At Large* - 646-0477
Birnie Harper – At Large*– 452-0301
Kit Hart – At Large* – 629-1505
Molly Schardt – Bread to newcomers – 709-9497
Judy Trowbridge – Comfort Food – 785-5550
Clergy – The Rev. Marti Dalby – 782-9912/cell 221-4031

*At Large = Willing to help when needed.

St. John's Episcopal Church
214 N. 6th
Fort Smith, AR 72901