



## THE HOLY BABBLE

December 17, 2008 — January 6, 2009

**In Need of a Priest  
Call/ email:**

**The Rev. Marti Dalby**  
221-4031/  
[mdalby@stjohnfs.org](mailto:mdalby@stjohnfs.org) or  
surprisedby  
[grace@yahoo.com](mailto:grace@yahoo.com)

**The church office -**  
782-9912  
[stjohnfs@stjohnfs.org](mailto:stjohnfs@stjohnfs.org)

**Louise Watts, Senior  
Warden - 782-9290**  
[lbwatts@cox.net](mailto:lbwatts@cox.net)

**For other needs call/  
email:**  
**Jeannie McCabe**  
221-4032  
[jmccabe@stjohnfs.org](mailto:jmccabe@stjohnfs.org)

**Mary Ann Arnold**  
452-1359  
[maarnoldgfwc@  
sbcglobal.net](mailto:maarnoldgfwc@sbcglobal.net)



This next Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Advent, presents us with a picture of what it means to truly follow the will of God. We are confronted with a very young woman, possibly as theologians tell us, someone as young as fourteen years old. She is told that she will be the mother of the Son of God. We need to stop and think for a moment just exactly what this means. Mary has to make a decision that will affect her whole life. In the society in which she lived, she could be stoned to death if word got out that she was unmarried and pregnant. Also, she is not of any particular importance or fame, just a young woman engaged to be married. And yet, she is chosen as the “favored one” by God. She was a human being, just like all of us, but one who accepted the will of God. Her closing words, “let it be with me according to your word,” show her unwavering devotion to her Lord, even in the midst of great uncertainty as to what the future will bring. She is an example of what it means to have real faith in God, putting God first, and allowing God to make the decisions that shape our lives, instead of our own desires and wills. The angel Gabriel told her that nothing is impossible with God. Mary was willing to take that chance. Because of her faith, she would bear the Savior of the world. We know the rest of the story, but for now, let’s just take a few moments to remember why she was chosen.

The Reverend Marti Dalby +

**GUEST** **Sunday, December 21:** The Rev. Suzanne Stoner from St. Paul’s in Fayetteville will speak at both the 8:00 am & 10:30 am services at St. John’s.

**SPEAKER** **Sunday, December 28:** The Rev. Don Hubbard from Sparks Pastoral Care will speak at both the 8:00 am & 10:30 am services at St. John’s.



**Church Offices Closed: Dec. 25-26 and Jan. 1.**

### BE SAFE

For information on Arkansas road conditions call 1-800-245-1672 or on the web at [www.Arkansashighways.com](http://www.Arkansashighways.com).

## Upcoming Events



**Christmas Eve Services:** Wednesday, December 24, at both 4:45 pm and 10:30 p.m. (carols begin at 10:00 p.m.) Flautist, Duy Tran will perform.



**Nursery Workers Appreciation Dinner:** December 20 at 6:00 p.m. in the Skinner Building.

### Upcoming Events

Dec. 18: Staff Christmas Party, 6:00 pm  
Dec. 19-20: FISH retreat at Camp McCabe  
Dec. 20: Nursery Dinner, 6pm in the Skinner Bldg.  
Dec. 21: The Rev. Suzanne Stoner to preach  
Dec. 21: Deadline for homeless bags  
Dec. 21: Deadline to send in names for the Poinsettias  
Dec. 22: NO BIBLE STUDY, 9:30 am  
Dec.24: Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 pm  
Dec.24: Christmas Eve Service, 10:00 pm  
Dec. 25-26: Church Offices closed for Christmas  
Dec. 28: Morning Prayer Services; The Rev. Don Hubbard to preach.  
Jan. 01: Offices closed today  
Jan. 02: Newsletter Deadline  
Jan. 04: 1st Sunday Breakfast & Discretionary Fund Sunday  
Jan. 11: 2nd Sunday service  
Jan. 13: Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm  
Jan. 14: LOGOS at 1st Pres., 4 pm  
Jan. 15: Episcopal Café meetings move to St. John's, 6:30 pm  
Jan. 19: Deadline for Annual Reports  
Jan. 25: St. John's Annual Meeting  
Jan. 30: Laymen's League, noon

### Annual Parish Meeting

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

**WALK FOR PEACE  
AT THE LABYRINTH  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009  
12 NOON - 4 P.M.  
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
918 NORTH 9TH STREET - VAN BUREN, AR**

### Attention Anyone that likes to Needlepoint!

Your help is needed for this big project. The kneelers are being crafted for the Cathedral. Each church in the diocese will be represented with their own design for their kneeler. So far the status of this project is 61 completed kneelers, 39 kneelers in process, and 127 kneelers donated in memory of or in thanksgiving for a special occasion. Yes, you can donate and have your very own kneeler in the Cathedral in memory of a special person or in thanksgiving for a special person or family, etc. Dust off your old needles and let's get involved. Please contact Cindy Cole or let Vickie know by calling the church office. What a great way to begin fall by participating in this wonderful project.

**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.

## Church News

### Charitable IRA rollover opportunity available until Dec. 31

New legislation was approved recently by Congress and signed by the President encouraging additional charitable giving as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act. The law is an immediate and retroactive extension of the Pension Protection Act of 2006 provision which allows taxpayers 70 1/2 years of age and older to make tax-free distributions from their traditional and Roth IRAs directly to charity in 2008 and 2009.

To enjoy the most benefit from this opportunity, you must complete this year's transfer prior to Dec. 31. Check with your tax advisor for the best way for you to take advantage of this opportunity.

### 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](mailto:hbraswell@stjohnfs.org) for an enrollment form.

Harold Braswell, Financial Secretary

### 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](mailto:vphelan@stjohnfs.org). If your articles are not submitted by the deadline we will be unable to include them.



### St. John's Directory Updates:

Mr. & Mrs. Don Hubbard  
8404 Hannah Court  
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Ed & Vee Chandler  
Email: [ednvee@cox.net](mailto:ednvee@cox.net)



### Poinsettias for the Christmas Season:

If you would like to contribute toward the Christmas Flowers, complete this form and leave it along with your check (marked "Christmas Flowers") in the church office or place it in the alms basin on Sunday. Deadline for turning in your information is Sunday, December 21.

Names: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**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  
Dan McKee

[bishopbenfield@mac.com](mailto:bishopbenfield@mac.com)  
[dmckee@arkansas.anglican.org](mailto:dmckee@arkansas.anglican.org)

# WANTED!

**Library:**

**Need all books turned in so they can be labeled. Pronto!**

**Thanks, Cindy Cole**

## Church News



**Episcopal Café:** THANK YOU SO MUCH to those who donated to our finals study night! It was a success! We had 15 people in attendance, which was great for our first big event! We're grateful for the support of our St. John's family!

We will not have our regular Thursday night events during the Christmas holiday, but we have the following events you can get involved in:

12/17/08 Christmas Party at Molly's- 7pm Join us for drinks and appetizers at Molly's townhouse! Bring an appetizer to share, along with a small, wrapped gift for a game of 'Dirty Santa!' Molly lives at 2917 Old Greenwood Road, #16. (In Cambridge, behind Maybranch Square) Email us for more info or directions!

1/1/09 Labyrinth Walk for Peace 12:00pm Trinity Van Buren will host Walk for Peace, a community prayer event. There will be both an indoor & outdoor labyrinth available, both of which are ancient tools for walking prayer and meditation. We'll meet up at St. John's at noon and carpool to the event, then will go out for a New Year's lunch!

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!



### Gift Bags for the Homeless

We are collecting donations or necessity items for the homeless. There is a table in the Parish Hall to put your gifts on. Items need to be turned in by Dec. 21. **Travel Size Containers.**

Socks	Stocking caps	Toiletries	Warm gloves
Scarves	Deodorant	Combs	Tooth paste
Healthy food snacks			



**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.

## Outreach



Come Join the Harpers' Wise Sackers  
Crew on Saturdays

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

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

Saturday, 11:30AM-12noon

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the Month: Fern & Birnie Harper

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the Month: \_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month: \_\_\_\_\_

4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the Month: \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Meet Mary Wise Sack Lunch Program Founder

In 1986, Mary Wise was overcome by the people she often saw every day out front of St. John's with a look of hunger in their eyes. Mary began bringing Vienna sausages and crackers from home to feed the people.

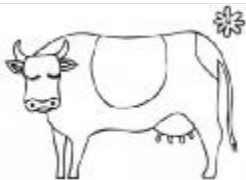
Each day, the number of hungry people, waiting at the church door increased. Fr. Burton told Mary it was time to let St. John's help with the ministry to the hungry and needy. Thus, the Sack Lunch Program was born.

The Sack Lunch Program is not a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) agency. St. John's provides the facility (the Secret Building) and the Program is funded by donations and memorials. At one time, the Program received grant monies from a Clearinghouse grant.

Mary said that in the beginning, she and her husband often paid for the Sack Lunch program supplies. "We had some big givers back then," said Mary. The "givers" gave as much as \$300 a month to support the Sack Lunch Program. "Virginia Randall, Bernice Kizer, and Dr. Knight were some of the "givers", Mary said.

Mary retired from the Sack Lunch Program in 1998, but she said after the first of the year, she is going to come back and help serve sack lunches on Thursdays at noon.

"I'm delighted we are keeping this (the Sack Lunch Program) up.....there are always hungry and needy people," said Mary.



### Heifer Project News

Cows are a sign of wealth in many countries, and moving cows to seasonal pasture and water has been a way of life for nomads since earliest times. Heifer Project dairy cows, though, are usually zero-grazed—kept in a fenced area with fodder carried to them. That way, they don't wander, risking injury and disease.

Dairy cows are bred to give milk and can give five or more gallons every day. HPI project partners value them highly as suppliers of nourishing protein, so children grow strong and healthy. Families can sell extra milk, butter, cheese or yogurt to provide a steady income. They sell calves after the first heifer (young female cow) is passed on to another family in need. Heifer Project teaches farmers to plant special grasses and trees with leaves cows like to eat. These plants hold water in the soil, improving its quality. Cow manure is valuable because it is an excellent crop fertilizer. Some cattle pull plows or other heavy loads.

St. John's is currently raising \$500 to purchase a heifer for a hungry family via Heifer Project International. The peace pipe at the altar holds \$120 in quarters, which means it will need to be filled four times before we have raised enough for that heifer. We have raised the first \$120, which means we are well on our way!



# St. John's Episcopal Church Kid's Korner

*End of the Month Edition*

December 17, 2008 ♦ Volume 5, Issue 25

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

## "Good News of Great Joy" Captured moments—Getting Ready



Angels in waiting



Shepherds came to see the child

### CAST:

Narrators – Katie Kilpatrick; Austin Kolljeski

Gabriel – Sara Kincannon

Angel of the Lord – Kaersti McLellan

Mary – Catherine Ward

Joseph – Will Klek

Jesus – Shelby Soto

Innkeeper #1 – William Kolljeski

Innkeeper#2 – Jessica Kolljeski

Shepherds – Andy McLellan, Wyatt Robinson,  
Will Robinson, Rush Basinger

Animals – Sheep: Max Davis, Gregory Allen,  
Chance Hevner, Donkey: Anastasia Goodwin

Angels – Moriah Dusenbury Amara Lowe, Grace  
Lowe, Kristen Love, Desirae Love, Mattie  
McLellan, Josh Roam

Kings: Ryan Davis, Storm Basinger, Alex Leeper



# W-orship

DEC	21	24 (Chr. Eve)	24 (Chr. Eve)	28
		<i>5:00 Service</i>	<i>10:00 Service</i>	<i>Morning Prayer</i>
<i>server</i>	Katie Kilpatrick	Karen Kincannon	Ashley Flippin	2 to be
<i>asst</i>	Storm Basinger	Sara Kincannon	Joe Lawson	Scheduled
<i>crucifer</i>	Rush Basinger	Kaersti McLellan	Sarah Flippin	
<i>clergy</i>	Amara Lowe	Catherine Ward	William Kolljeski	
<i>torch</i>	Kristen Love	KC Ward	Jessica Kolljeski	
<i>torch</i>	Desirae Love	Andy McLellan	Austin Kolljeski	

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

**THANK YOU**  
**To all who helped**  
**“Good News of Great Joy”**  
**To be such a JOYFUL occasion**

EVERY cast member ...We could not have done it without you ... ALL 27 of you!!!  
 Group Leaders and Directors: Jerry Green, Carol Clifton, Bob Klek, Barbara Roam, Shanna Dusenbury, Norma Basinger, Christine Davis, Joe Jawson: Your dedication and patience are unsurpassed  
 Dinner Hostesses & Helpers: Sandra Kilpagrick, Lori Burton; Steve Kilpatrick, Katie Kilpatrick, Chris Burton, Louis Watts, Steve France  
 Meat Cook & Provider: Brent Ward—a special thanks for such a quick and significant response to last minute challenges.

## Y-outh Groups

**STARS** (S-piritual T-eens A-re R-adical) -  
 6th-8th gr Meets weekly: Sundays, 3:30-5:30  
**NEXT MEETING: Jan. 4**  
**Epiphany—12th Night Party**

**FISH** (F-aith I-nspires S-piritual H-ealth)  
 9th-12th grades—Weekly: Sundays 5:00-7:00

Dec. 19-20 - Retreat at MaCabe Lake House BRING SIGNED FORM (see email); overnight needs, sleeping bag. Departure Friday, 4:30 at Jeannie's house; ETA Sat. 5:00ish

**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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

- ◆ **Dec. 19-20**—FISH Retreat at Camp McCabe
- ◆ **Dec.. 24**—5:00 Family Service —Children process Nativity Figures
- ◆ **Jan. 4**—Youth: Epiphany 12th Night Party / Both groups—4:30

**2000 x** **=**   
**(4 Filled Peace Pipes) 500 Heifer**  
**1 Already FILLED!!!**  
**Helping one family have a better quality of life**  
**Through Heifer Project International**



Youth decorate the Christmas Bags for the Homeless while waiting for everyone to arrive for rehearsal.

**Vestry Minutes**  
**December 9, 2008**

Opening Prayer, Scripture, Lord's Prayer.

November 11<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes approved.

Financial Report:

We are significantly under our pledges for this year – currently at 80% of last year's pledge total. Next year's budget must be tight – need to be better stewards. Motion passed: vestry accepts preliminary budget with finance committee having some latitude in finalizing the budget. Motion passed to give same bonuses to staff, with exception of secretary, who's increased because of her working a full year.

Sr. Warden's Report:

Nothing to report on priest search. Marti's title is now Priest Associate.

Priest Associate Report:

Officiated at all November services. Prepared request for funds for Sack Lunch, Next Step and Good Samaritan Clinic from Moody Mission Fund at First Presbyterian. Co-facilitated Adult Christian Education, conducted Monday bible study, facilitator for ECW Diocesan Fall Gathering in Little Rock, officiated at two interments of past members of St. John's, hosted Saints Alive, officiated at Thanksgiving Eve Holy Eucharist, participated in Lessons and Carols service, and pastoral care and day to day duties.

Parish Report:

Average Sunday attendance has gone up from October/November '07 to '08. 55 attended Outdoor Eucharist, Thanksgiving Eve 50 attendees. Lessons and Carols were incredible. Annual Parish Meeting is January 25<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

Youth Ministries Report:

Christmas pageant is on Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – dinner afterward. Playground completed. Nursery improvements still pending.

Jr. Warden's Report:

New speaker would cost about \$500. Painting on Victorian House currently under way.

Committee Reports:

Outreach funds needed for Clearinghouse family.  
Next Step Day Room received \$20,000. From city.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:




Start thinking about lay delegates for Annual Diocesan Convention, Feb. 20-21.  
Estimate of giving card due to Diocese by Dec. 15.

Meeting adjourned.

# January 2009

— Sundays

= weekly meetings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Sunday Schedule</b> 8:00 Holy Eucharist 9:15 Christian Ed. 10:30 Choral Holy Euc. 3:30 STARS 5:00 FISH	<b>Mondays</b> 8:15 Morning Prayer 9:30 Bible Study 5:30 EFM	<b>Tuesdays</b> 8:15 Morning Prayer 12:15 Healing Euc.	<b>Wednesdays</b> 8:15 Morning Prayer 11:45 Bible Study 6:30 Choir	<b>Thursdays</b> 8:15 Morning Prayer 6:30 Episcopal Cafe @ St. John's 8:00 AA	<b>Fridays</b> 8:15 Morning Prayer	<b>Saturdays</b>
4 2nd Sunday after Christmas Day 1st Sunday Breakfast & Discretionary Fund Sunday Youth: Epiphany 12th night party, both groups, 4:30 pm	5 SAHM (Stay at Home Moms) 10:30 am 	6 The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ	7 Next Step Meeting, 4:15 pm Newsletter will be mailed out	1 <b>A HAPPY NEW YEAR</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED</b>	2 Deadline for Newsletter articles	3
11 1st Sunday after the Epiphany 2nd Sunday Service, 5 pm	12 Good Samaritan Clinic Exec Mtg, noon	13 Vestry Meeting, 5:30 pm	14 LOGOS starts back at 1st Presbyterian, 4pm	15 Episcopal Café, 6:30 pm starts at St. John's tonight Good Samaritan Clinic Board Mtg, noon	16	17
18 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany	19 Deadline for Annual Reports	20 SAHM (Stay at Home Moms) 10:30 am 	21	22	23	24
25 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany Annual Parish Mtg, 9 am	26	27 Girls Night Out, 6:30 pm 	28	29	30 Laymen's League, noon 	31

**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.

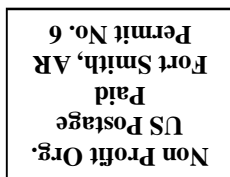
**Vestry Members**

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
Farrah 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.



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