

## Ongoing Events

- Sundays:** Holy Eucharist: 8:30 am  
Godly Play: 8:30 am, Hospitality room (grades K to 6)  
Nursery Care: 8:30 am to noon  
Holy Eucharist: 10:30 am  
Preschool Class: 10:30 am, Nursery (ages 3 and 4)  
Godly Play: 10:30 am, Hospitality room (grades K to 6)  
Men's BBQ: 5:00 pm, church (first, alternate months)  
Youth Group: 6:30 to 8:00 pm, church
- Mondays:** Morning Prayer: 8:30 am, chapel (Monday - Friday)  
Yoga for Christians: 9:30 am, Patsy Gorczyca  
Cursillo Men's group: Noon, Frank Pegg  
Cursillo Women's group: Noon, Marilyn Cook  
Evening Prayer: 5:30 pm, chapel (Monday-Friday)
- Tuesdays:** Study Group II: 9:15 am, Ruth Diekman  
(second and fourth)  
Yoga for Christians: 7:30 pm, Patsy Gorczyca
- Wednesdays:** Choir Rehearsal: 7:00 to 8:30 pm, church  
Choristers: (grades 1-6), 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm, church
- Thursdays:** Holy Eucharist: 12:10 pm, chapel  
Fellowship Ministries: 7:00 pm, Mary Knutsen and Kathy Girard  
(third)  
Compassion Ministries: 6:30 pm, Hospitality Room (first)
- Fridays:** Singles' Supper Club: 6:00 pm, Susan Burke  
(fourth, alternate months)



## Events In December

- Saturday, December 1:** Compassion Cocoa and Bow-Tying Party, 10:00 am
- Sunday, December 2:** Advent Lessons and Carols, 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 5:** Bishop Nicholas Celebration, 6:00 pm
- Sunday, December 9:** Intergenerational Service, 10:30 am  
World Awareness Service, 7:00 pm
- Saturday, December 15:** Cookie Exchange, 1:00 pm  
Newsletter Deadline
- Monday, December 24:** Christmas Eve Services, 5:30 pm and 10:30 pm
- Tuesday, December 25:** Christmas Day Service, 10:30 am  
Office Closed
- Monday, January 1:** New Year's Day, Office Closed
- Sunday, January 6:** The Arts at St. John's Organ Concert, 3:00 pm

*(Please call the church office, 369-3381, for specifics on any of the above.)*



### December Anniversaries

### December Birthdays

- |                                  |                         |                         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2: Juanita and Dwaine Sommer     | 2: Dorothy Connelly     | 15: Keith Ledbetter     |
| 8: Sheryl and Roger McLord       | Kathryn Munson          | Dwaine Sommer           |
| 10: Kathleen and Steve Cook      | 6: Ethan Cole Bronson   | 16: Mike Marshall       |
| 12: Margaret and Will Meyer      | Frank Mills             | 17: Teresa Culbertson   |
| 22: Polly and Ken Morgan         | 7: Holly Faith Wilson   | 18: Tony Ferrara        |
| 31: Kimberly and Matthew Bronson | Greg Wright             | 20: Ejae Brown          |
| Marilyn and John Cook            | 8: Jocelyn Alexa Kafton | Brandon George          |
|                                  | Norm Lithco             | 24: Patsy Gorczyca      |
|                                  | 9: Father Rick Matters  | 26: Peggy Moos          |
|                                  | 10: Dorothy Mullen      | 27: Jim Kuykendall      |
|                                  | 12: Mary Ellen Beckman  | 28: Steve Culbertson    |
|                                  | 13: Karen Kuykendall    | 31: Father Tony Morello |
|                                  | 14: Patrick Walton      |                         |

## Adopt-a-Child

Help make Christmas a little brighter for a child. St. John's is once again assisting Lodi Adopt-A-Child by having a Christmas tree filled with wishes from local Lodi children. Please help make this Christmas a bit happier for those children whose families are facing challenges in just making ends meet.

Here's how: Select a tag from the Christmas tree, complete the information required, purchase your gift and bring the unwrapped gift with the child's information back to St. John's.

Help share the grace of God's love and spirit of the season by bringing joy to others!

Claire Stone



## Editor's Corner

On the way to work one morning, I saw a man walking along the sidewalk. He was kicking clutter and garbage into the gutter as he went along. Rocks, cans, branches, paper. I thought of God and wondered if God is doing that around us without our knowledge; kicking the garbage out of our way, sending it into the place where it will be dealt with properly in its time. I was warmed to think of Him watching over us in this fashion.

Then I noticed the man again. He kicked a plastic bag into the gutter, and a breeze blew it right back up on the sidewalk behind him as he walked on. That was when I knew my thoughts had been right.

God sweeps the litter out of our way if we ask Him to. He helps us overcome sin, be better Christians, whatever we ask. But when we don't listen to Him, when we don't ask Him to help, the litter remains, even when we think we've dealt with it.

Ask God into your life again today and ask Him to help you with the litter in your life.

Michelle Hakala



## Message from the Senior Warden

The Unique Boutique – WOW! What a success. Hundreds from the Lodi community had a very positive experience in visiting St. John's. Congratulations and thank you to Mary Knutson, Kathy Girard, Deb Shook, Celisse Johnson, plus the St. John's team of Ann Marie Addler, Betty Bandelin, Mary Ellen Beckman (and grandson John), Vanadeane Brooks, Ejae Brown, Julie Buchmiller, Fern Davis, Mary Dawson, Ruth Diekman, Eva Drummond, Adrian Garcia, Angela Garcia, Patsy Gorczyca, Sara Heberle, Donna Hoffman, Barbara Jones, Ed Knutson, Joan Krack, Patsy Lithco, Claire Lima, Donna Lind, Shirley Michaeloff, Father Tony, Gretchen Nelson, Gwin Paden, Mandi Sager, Martha Scott, Rich Shook, Sperry Utz, Colleen Walton, and Elena Woodbridge. From all reports, the vendors were very happy with their sales, so interest in returning to next year's boutique, scheduled for October 25, 2008, is extremely high. Again, congratulations to all involved for a highly successful outreach to the greater Lodi community.

A second group of parishioners who have accepted leadership positions at St. John's also need our thanks. The first group of Andee Zetterbaum, Ejae Brown, Richard Cress, and Corky Kuykendall are attending the very important Diocesan Convention on December 7 and 8 in Fresno. They need your continued support and prayers. Next are Cecil Brewer, Claire Stone, Steve Augusto, and Walt Wolterstorff who have been elected to the vestry. Both your convention delegates and vestry members were elected at the November 4 All Parish meeting. After the meeting concluded, games, socializing, and a potluck supper were enjoyed by all. Celisse Johnson was responsible for successfully organizing the Fall Festival of Renewal and Rededication, which concluded our 2008 operating and building fund pledge campaign. Thank you to all who have pledged in the past and to all of those who pledged in 2008. If for some reason you were missed by the pledge campaign, please contact the treasurer, Edyth Ledbetter, your vestry, or the office.

St. John's continues to be a busy community. With the Advent/Christmas seasons approaching, it will become even busier. In this season of celebration and time of uneasiness at the national and diocesan level, let us at St. John's not forget why "We celebrate and extend the love of Christ from within the Episcopal tradition." We do so because Jesus did!

I ask you to continue to pray for your search committee. As you can see by their engagement of the parish, on your behalf, they are hard at work. I ask you also to continue support and prayers for guidance for your vestry and wardens. The vestry for 2008 are Cecil Brewer, Barbara Kregel, John Ledbetter, John Olowoyeye, Richard Cress, Cellise Johnson, Elaine Sager, Claire Stone, Steve Augusta, and Walt Wolterstorff.

Also continue your prayers for Father Basil, Father Ray, Father Eric, and Father Tony. Finally, pray for our Bishop John David, our Diocese, and the National Church leadership to have open minds, wisdom, forgiveness, acceptance, love for each other and to ask the question "What would Jesus do?"

John Ledbetter, Senior Warden



# Adornment Of The Liturgy

## December 2

Jeannette Waechter Clottu in loving memory of her sister, Harriet Dow; and in thanksgiving for her children, Anne Waechter Posey, Mary Ann Gucciardi and T. Richard Waechter, Jr.; and her grandchildren

Nancy Hammond in loving memory of her grandparents, Louise and Edward Gibbens, and David and Myrtle Stowe

## December 9

The Cariati-Landreth family in loving memory of Gina Cariati

## December 23

Father Ray Knapp in loving memory of his wife, Louise, for her birthday, December 21

## December 24

Marilyn Thompson and Persis Ledbetter in loving memory of their parents, Bernice and Percy Ritchie



## Helping Hands

Thank you, Gretchen Nelson and Yvonne Schildt for providing assistance in November.

Helping Hands for the month of December will be Donna Lind and Pat Fehling.

If you know of a family or individual who is in need of a meal, please call either Pat or me.

Donna Lind,  
Coordinator



## Thank You From The Arts

The Arts would like to thank Gretchen Nelson, Barbara Jones and Donna Hoffman for their assistance at Sunday Coffee Hour. The ladies set everything up for our members to enjoy after service. Thanks again, you're the best!

# Christmas at St. John's



## Christmas Eve

5:30 pm: Family Festal Eucharist\*

10:30 pm: Carols & Festal Eucharist

## Christmas Day

10:30 am: Festal Eucharist & Baptism\*

\*Child care provided

## Organ Concert - Brightest and Best

On Sunday, January 6, the Arts at St. John's will present a dedicatory Organ Concert at 3:00 pm. Robin Knutson, our organist, will be the featured artist, along with cellist Eugene Friesen. It will truly be a time of great music and celebration. In fact, there are a number of things to celebrate at this concert:

The beauty, in sight and sound, of our Felgemaker Organ at St. John's. We have a pipe organ that marvelously fits our space and is a delight to eye and ear. Over the past few months, we have gotten used to it; but we should really celebrate in a public way this addition to our building and parish life. We are fortunate to have the only Tracker Action pipe organ in Lodi and one of only three in the Lodi/Stockton area.

The artistry of Robin Knutson, our organist. Sunday after Sunday, service after service, we enjoy and appreciate her skill as a musician and as a sensitive leader in worship. This concert is a time to celebrate her gifts in our midst and to let her musical gift shine through on its own. Robin is already planning a program of music that will highlight the organ, the season and her own skills and gifts.

The artistry of Eugene Friesen, cello. We are fortunate to have had Eugene visit us many times and present us with his musical talent. He will be playing just a portion of this recital with Robin, but we certainly need to celebrate his many visits to St. John's and his personal friendship with the Kregel Family.

The festivity of celebrating, with the Kregel family, this wonderful gift of the organ in memory of Carol Marie Kregel. Many of the family members who made this all possible will be here for this special concert. It is truly our time to celebrate with them in this memorial, express our joy and thanks for this gift that adds so much to our life together, and will in the years to come.

So please plan to be with us that afternoon. The concert will conclude with light refreshments for all and a social time. It is a ticketed event, but the amount is minimal to pay our visiting artist and get out publicity: \$10 for adults or \$5 for students and seniors. Tickets will be available after worship in the church office and at the Music Box in Lodi.

Randy A. Knutson  
Music Director, St. John's Episcopal Church  
randyknutson@sbcglobal.net



## Mustard Seeds

We were blessed to have Brother Jude Hills from the Society of St. Francis as preacher on Sunday, November 11. He planted several seeds among us as he reviewed the life of St. Francis of Assisi. Among them were:

“Preach the Gospel at all times, and only when absolutely necessary use words.”

“If we take time to pray, God will speak clearly to us.”

“May God give me grace to do what I should do.”

I was reminded that a delightful way to become familiar with the Gospel and also to take time to pray is to participate in the Daily Office. For thirty minutes every weekday morning and for thirty minutes every weekday evening, we are invited to Morning and/or Evening Prayer in the chapel.

Consider making it a gift to yourself during this season of Advent. Enter the quiet sanctuary of our chapel, slow your breathing and relax with God through:

\* Praying ... silently for the blessings of the day and that God has given you the grace to come ...

\* Listening ... “The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.”

\* Confession ... “We have not loved you with our whole heart...”

\* Participation in the reading of the Psalms... “Blessed is the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my prayer. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I have been helped...”

\* Learning ... from the stories of the Old Testament and anticipating “What happens next?”

\* Participating in the Canticles ... “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior ...”

\* The lesson from the Gospel and other chosen collects ... “Create in us clean hearts, O God” ... “And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.”

\* Prayers of intercession and thanksgivings, and closing with The General Thanksgiving ... “We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ ...”

You may find yourself refreshed, and able to move through the busyness that the holidays bring with a renewed spirit of peace and joy.

Come on whatever days and times you are able: Monday through Friday, mornings at 8:30 am, evenings at 5:30 pm.

With love and prayers,  
Patsy Gorczyca



# Unique Boutique

The Unique Boutique was a huge, meaningful success. We opened the doors of our church to community and in came love and joy. Faith came earlier, from our vestry and congregation and all who helped put our "uniqueness" into action. Special thanks to Celisse Johnson and Ann-Marie Addler. Celisse, for the backbreaking work of mapping out spaces. (As Father Tony said, "You sold air!") And Ann-Marie kept all the money and contracts straight.

Many others deserve our thanks for their help. We had Ejae Brown and Gwin Paden on ads and publicity. Mary Ellen Beckman handled our raffle. Deb Shook was our talent scout and vendor wrangler and note taker. Mandi Sager for children's corner, Kathy Girard and Mary Knutsen for spaghetti dinners and Café St. Rose's food. Our new friend, Father Tony Morello, made his famous sauce for the spaghetti dinners. Claire Lima sold our cookbooks. Edward Knutsen helped with lifting and hauling, and Adrian Garcia sold hot dogs. This was such a group effort! We had many ticket, raffle, and food sellers. Thank you all.

We are honored to report a \$1,785 profit, so mark your calendar for next year's event, on October 25, 2008.

Mary Knutsen  
Unique Boutique Chairman



## Christmas Chocolate and Wreath Bow Party

December 1 will be our annual decorative bow-tying party for the Compassion wreath sales. We will meet at 10:00 am on that Saturday and make beautiful bows to attach to the wreaths, which will be picked up the next day, on December 2. Please come and enjoy the fellowship, cocoa, Christmas music and bows by St. John's!



Pat Fehling

# Advent

Many years ago, I 'discovered' a church season that has continued to be a favorite of mine; the season of Advent. I say discovered, because it has always existed but I had not brought it into my life and used it. I grew up in a church tradition that did not observe Advent so I had not heard much about it until college. Even if I had, Christmas has always loomed so large it would have pushed Advent aside.

Yet around Christmas, as I heard the stories of Scrooge, Charlie Brown and George Bailey, there was always a hint that there was more to Christmas than just presents and warm family time. Even being centered on the birth of Jesus at Christmas did not seem to fulfill the need to reflect on the many gifts that come to us from each other and from God at this time of year (including family, love, and our very lives). When I found out about the reflective and anticipatory nature of Advent and how it could help prepare for the joy of the Incarnation, of Christmas, it made sense. Advent, for me, became the key to making Christmas truly meaningful and giving me time to not just run around and prepare for Christmas, but to truly prepare myself for the joy of the season.

Advent also can enrich our lives in learning something that does not come easily in our culture: expectation and patience. As the writer Henri Nouwen has said, "Waiting patiently in expectation is the foundation of the spiritual life. Without patience our expectation degenerates into wishful thinking. Patience comes from the word 'patior' which means 'to suffer' ...What seems a hindrance becomes a way; what seems an obstacle becomes a door; what seems a misfit becomes a cornerstone."

So come to know and love the riches Advent can bring.

Randy Knutson, Music Director



## Liturgical Notes: Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath, with four candles to symbolize the four Sundays of Advent, is a sign of the coming of light in the season of darkening winter. It is a sign of the ever-brightening hope in the coming of the Son (sun) of righteousness, Jesus Christ. The circle of unbroken greens that often makes up the wreath is clearly an image of evergreen life, the crown of Christ, a victory wreath or the wheel of time itself. In addition to the wreath in our church, many people have a wreath or other four-candle display in their homes which they light to mark the weeks and Sundays of Advent. With or without a symbolic fifth or "Christ Candle" in the middle, the Advent Wreath points to our faith, hope and trust in God, the one who brings forth all light. It is truly a symbol of growing hope and joy as we await Jesus, the one who has come and who will come again.

## Designers Guild

As I walk in the secluded garden of our home every morning, I find the peace I need to face a busy day. Then it is almost as if the Holy Spirit has visited, for my spirit is suddenly lifted and my peace of mind changes to one of excitement. Not all the leaves have turned color, but enough are tinged with yellow, gold, brown, red and other indescribable colors. Roses are giving forth with their last small blooms of the year. Their fall blooms are so delicate. The impatiens and begonias in soft pinks echo the colors of the coleus. Everywhere textures from fern, small evergreens, especially the hinoki with its chartreuse green tinge on its branches, and the dwarf ficus with its exquisite fine leaves, excite the eyes. Geraniums are blooming as if spring has arrived. The hydrangeas have turned green, ready for subtle church displays. The camellias are coming to life with rose, pink, white and soon red showing magnificently against their dark green foliage. Moss has returned to our stones and pathways, making the garden look soft and untouched. The barberries are again that wonderful burgundy color, having been dulled by the hot summer weather. The calla lilies are pushing up their exotic leaves and, if our frost is light, will supply lilies for Easter. The forsythia has a few early blooms but its leaves have marvelous subtle colors in its long arms. As I move from flower to bush and our many grasses, I select branches, leaves and shrubs that can be used for our church arrangements for Sunday and Christmas. I must now go back to reality as breakfast for myself and Eric must be prepared.

Now in our ancient home, my mind is doing its usual many-pronged thinking - cooking Thanksgiving dinner for family - my wonderful calculus class - and - floral church arrangements. Our meeting last Saturday finalized the plans for Christmas. Every project is moving ahead by our so willing and knowledgeable guild members. Colleen's and Janie's crèches are already set in their creative mind for both the chapel and church. Our stone angel will return from Mary Ellen's garden for her spectacular Christmas arrangement. Charlotte's suggestion of banking our trees for higher display on either side of our new organ is moving ahead. Persis is already planning to spray the swags which will be hung outside this year. Mary Ellen is ordering greens, wreaths and swags from our so generous donor. Fern is ordering poinsettias. Stockton Flower Mart is receiving orders for lilies and carnations. The Advent wreath is at the House of Iron being adjusted for display. Advent candles are being sought. Discounts on trees are being solicited. Our large vases are being repaired and painted to resemble marble by Eva, Jeanette and Mandy. (Thank Heaven for Eva's brief return.) Although only greens will be used in Advent, one can see the activity that will still be going on until Christmas Eve.

We appreciate the memorials for Christmas that have already been given to allow us to carry out our work. What a wonderful time to remember a friend, loved ones that have gone before or those that brighten our spirits every day. It is also our gift to Jesus on his birthday.

Norma



**Please refer to The Arts at St.  
John's web page for concert  
information**

## Notes From The Church Mouse



We give thanksgiving for the confirmation of James Ricahrd Allen, Jonas Edward Knutson, Amanda Lynn Sager, Katy Ann Walton and Kevin Michael Walton.

The Mouse needs your help! One poor little church mouse can't possibly keep up with all the happenings at the church by itself. If you know of something the Mouse should report, please contact the church office, 369-3381, or Michelle Hakala or winebird@winebird.com.



## From The Wieds

To our dear St. John's Family:

It hardly seems possible that it has been almost a year since I moved from Lodi. Although we miss all our friends and church family in Lodi and Stockton, we really like our new home in Ventura. The weather is moderate and being by the ocean is both invigorating and relaxing. Our new church family at St. Paul's has welcomed us with open arms. Doug and I both sing in the choir. Doug is on the Endowment Committee and I serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Our jobs are going well and we are involved in the community meeting many wonderful people.

I want to thank you for all your prayers, good thoughts, cards, notes and phone calls since my cancer diagnosis. Those prayers have sustained me over the past few challenging months. I'm sorry I haven't been able to respond to each correspondence but know that they are so greatly appreciated. I have kept them all and on days when I'm feeling a little down, I reread them and thank God for all of you and realize what a blessed woman I am! Although the cancer will probably never be cured, I seem to be responding to the current treatment. I'm able to work full time and carry on most of my normal schedule.

Know that all of you are in our daily prayers as you go through the process of finding a new rector. If you are ever in Ventura, come by for a visit. Thanks again for all your love and prayers.

Chris Wied

**Editor's Note:** This letter came with full contact information for Doug and Chris. Because this newsletter is available on St. John's Web site, I have not included it here. If you would like the contact information for them, contact the church office, 369-3381, or me, 333-8435 or winebird@winebird.com.

# SEARCH COMMITTEE

Rosemary Cress met with the search committee on November 17. She explored a variety of methods we can employ to determine what qualities you desire in our next rector. We have been using the question method over the past weeks to formulate a portion of the Parish Profile. Card I and Card II were passed out at Sunday and Thursday services on November 4, 8, 11, and 15.

The search committee will be scoring the cards in early December. The results should be reported in the January newsletter. To date 113 Card I's and 108 Card II's have been completed.

If you have not filled out a card, blanks are available in the file box on the ministry table in the narthex. The box is black and labeled Search Committee. Behind this box is a green papered box marked Search Committee into which you may place your complete card. Please return all cards by November 30.

On September 9 as a family, you answered the question "What is the proximity of your home to the church?"

The results:

Surveys completed	94	(Represents 267 people)
Single members	6%	(15 people)
Family members	94%	(252 people)

	<b>Single</b>	<b>Family</b>	<b>Percent Single</b>	<b>Percent Family</b>
1 mile	5	51	33%	20%
2-4 miles	5	115	33%	46%
5-6 miles	1	26	27%	10%
More than 6 miles	4	55	77%	22%

Any members of the search committee will be pleased to discuss the profile process with you. Ask us anytime.

Vanadeane Brooks



## Linen Ladies

The Linen Ladies are blessed with the enthusiastic addition of Deb Shook to our team. She will be Dorothy Snyder's replacement at the end of the year.

Our grateful thanks go to Dorothy for being the interim linen lady for Donna Hoffman, who served for several years.

Several other ladies have graciously stepped forward to assist in times of need.

Gretchen Nelson and Barbara Jones



## Christmas Wreath Sales

We will be selling the preordered Christmas wreaths after church on December 2. Be sure to bring your money and pick up your wreath!

## Coffee Hour

For the month of October, we give thanks to Bob and Jeannette Clottu, Juanita and Dwaine Sommer, John Spagnola, Chester and Rose George, Mary Ellen Beckman, Claire Lima, Norma Yeoman, Aleathea Langone and the youth group. Thanks to all for a great job!

For the month of November we give thanks to the Arts, Angela, Angie and Adrian Garcia, Mary Dawson, Charlotte Rosson, Julie Buchmiller, Marilyn Cook, the Altar Guild and Compassion ministries.

Thank you all for taking time to keep our fellowship going. I know everyone enjoys a cup of coffee and a treat before they go home. So please sign up, we still have a lot of Sundays open.

Blessings,  
Kathy Girard



## Cookie Exchange

You are invited to St. John's on December 15 at 1:00 pm for a cookie exchange. Make a dozen cookies and bring them to church; we will set them out with all the others. Bring a container to take a variety of cookies home with you. It's a wonderful way to share recipes and you get lots of good cookies for Christmas! If you choose to make fudge, brownies or other non-cookie goodies that's okay, too! It's all about fellowship.

Blessings,  
Kathy Girard and Mary Knutsen

## St. John's Small Groups

"Oh Come Let Us Adore Him;" you may do this by participating with a small group. Now is a great time to join one.

**Women of Faith Study Group** will continue the regular meeting schedule of first and third Thursdays, at 9:00 am, at the home of Barbara Jones, during December. The study is 2 Samuel. For more information, please call Barbara Jones or Gretchen Nelson.

**Study Group II** will meet at the church on Tuesday, December 11, at 9:15 am. This concludes our study of *A Wing and a Prayer*, by Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori. The new study beginning January 8 will be *When the Heart Waits*, by Sue Monk Kidd. Please call me for further information. New participants are always welcome.

**Cursillo Reunion Groups** meet on Mondays at noon year-round. The men's group contact is Frank Pegg; the women's group contact is Marilyn Cook. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

**St. Margaret's Group** has selected a new study. Monday, December 3, is the next scheduled meeting. New participants are always welcome. Please call Claire Lima, for information about the group and its study.

**Yoga for Christians** groups meet Monday mornings at 9:30 am and Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm, in the church. The last meeting for 2007 will be Tuesday, December 18, and the group will reconvene on Monday January 7, 2008. Please call Patsy Gorczyca, for details and when attending for the first time.

**Singles Supper Club** will not meet in December. A soup supper is planned for Friday, January 25, at Gretchen Nelson's home. Sara Heberle is the coordinator for this group.

**The Bridge Tournament** play for 2007-2008 is in progress. For information, please contact Sara Heberle or me.

**Green Piece** is an opportunity for self-selected involvement. The churchyard garden has thoughtfully been divided into manageable plots. Groups or individuals are encouraged to select a designated area to maintain. Please call Rich Shook for information. The old adage, "Many hands make light work," applies.

**Reminder:** New groups may be formed whenever an interest and leadership is identified. The new year would be an ideal time to initiate a new group.

Ruth Diekman,  
Small Groups Coordinator



# Bishop Nicholas Day



**Wednesday, December 5th at 6:00 pm**

**Celebrating an evening of  
fellowship, stories, food and  
small arts and crafts projects  
for all generations!**

## Message From The (Interim) Rector



The leaves are fast falling and soon it will be winter. Much has happened this fall, including the visitation of our bishop, John-David, and the confirmation of some of our members. I commend the bishop to your prayers as our pastor in God. He is responsible for the oversight and unity of the Diocese of San Joaquin, within the one holy and Catholic Church, its doctrine and tradition.

I am reminded that there is no such thing as an "Anglican doctrine" that differs in essence from the traditional doctrine of the Catholic church through the ages. Our doctrine is what was handed down from the teaching Christ himself, the holy Apostles and the four great Ecumenical Councils of the Church, as contained in the historic creeds. That is the position of the American Episcopal Church. Where our church may differ from other denominations is in the implementation of the basic teaching of Christ to love God and love one another. It is as simple and as profound as that. We rejoice that we are an inclusive part of "one holy catholic and apostolic Church." As such we claim the right, where truth and love are the criteria, to listen to the modern world and respond accordingly. It is not our intention to be disagreeable and divisive. On the contrary, we argue rather than quarrel and explain our policies reasonably as good and holy. All we ask is to be heard, understood and judged by Christ's teachings alone. On this basis St John's will resist further division and schism in the church when our representatives attend Diocesan Convention on December 7 and 8.

Outstanding work is done at St John's that makes it the warm and vibrant place we know and love. The important contribution, for instance, of the choir and Altar Guild, office and finance administration, numerous caring ministries, and latterly the Unique Boutique, may occasionally go unnoticed. We should find ways to express our personal gratitude to and for those who serve quietly and faithfully behind the scenes. All that we do is finely expressed in our regular Eucharistic worship, Sunday by Sunday, and in the weekday celebrations of Morning and Evening Prayer. Would sharing in the latter be a fitting personal celebration of Advent and a way of preparing for Christmas?

In the Peace of Christ, Father Basil+





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# St. John's Newsletter

## December 2007

The Rt. Rev. John-David Schofield, Bishop of San Joaquin  
The Rev. Raymond C. Knapp, *Rector Emeritus*  
The Rev. Eric B. Yeoman, III, Assisting Priest  
The Rev. Basil Matthews, Interim Rector  
The Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Morello, Associate Assisting Interim Priest  
Randy Knutson, Lay Associate  
Robin Knutson, Organist  
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