



The Episcopal Church
of St. John the Baptist
1055 S. Lower Sacramento Rd.
Lodi, CA 95242

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St. John's Newsletter

February 2009

The Right Rev. Bishop Jerry A. Lamb
The Rev. Raymond C. Knapp, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. Eric B. Yeoman, III, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Basil Matthews, *Interim Rector*
Randy Knutson, *Lay Associate*
Robin Knutson, *Organist*
Mandi Sager, *Nursery Care Provider*
Ramon and Camerina Ibarra, *Sextons*
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Message From The (Interim) Rector



Dear Friends,

When I came in June 2007 little did I realize I'd still be here at the beginning of 2009. However, I've been happy to share this turbulent period in the history of our Episcopal Diocese and the time of waiting for a new Rector for St John's. In the wider world, both International and National, the stage has been even more turbulent, effecting the secu-

rity and the economy of each one of us. As Interim Rector, my intention has been to 'hold the fort' during this time of discernment and waiting and to encourage you not only to be patient but to use the opportunity to deepen and strengthen faith and commitment; both to our Church and to our Nation. No moment of waiting is wasted when the time is used in the service of God and one another. On the contrary, it's an opportunity for creative preparation and germination of the seed, leading to new growth; like the sequence of Spring, Summer and Harvest.

During our post Christmas vacation, Cheryl and I rented a cottage near Mendocino, four hours north of San Francisco. She worked on her doctoral dissertation and I quietly painted for some five hours each morning. It was both peaceful and creative and enabled us to enjoy the rest of the time sightseeing, shopping and restaurant meals with some favorite wines - and the occasional cocktail! Six days proved to be just right for us and we returned happy and refreshed. We are grateful to you all for cards, tokens and kind wishes during the Christmas season. A warm thank you from us both.

No doubt we are all tempted to be anxious right now for various reasons, but remember Jesus' words of caution: "Do not be anxious, little flock." In a word, that means, "Relax, and enjoy life!" Life is his great gift to us and we are invited to "rest in the Spirit", place our trust in him, and enjoy it, now.

With love and prayers,

Father Basil+





LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS & PROGRAM

Come for Evening Prayer at 5:30
Enjoy Fellowship and Soup from 5:50 to 6:30
Enrich your observance of Lent,
Holy Week and Easter
Classes for the entire family
from 6:30 to 7:30
Wednesdays, March 4 - April 1

Cooking for the Salvation Army

St. John's will again be cooking the Friday Night Recovery at the Salvation Army on February 6th, at the Corp location on Lockeford Street. Please see Pat Fehling 333-2260 if you wish to help with the exciting outreach to the City of Lodi through the efforts of the Salvation Army.

Pat Fehling
Compassion Leader



*Dear Saint Valentine,
bless this friend of mine!*

Parish Reports

Copies of the Annual Parish Report for 2008 can be found on the table at the back of the church. You are welcome to take one home.

Will Starve for Food

At the end of February, St. John's Youth Group will again participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine Campaign. We will hold the Famine here at St. John's starting on Friday, Feb. 27 and finish on Saturday, Feb. 28. We will be seeking your pledges on Sunday mornings as we go without food these 30 hours, to identify with the hungry and will send those along directly to World Vision. During the time we are on the Famine, we will study world hunger, have Bible Study, Fellowship, do some community service and spend the night here at the church. Keep us in your prayers during that time, too.

Mugs and Kisses

On February 8, at both services, Fellowship will be selling our St. John's mugs full of kisses. We'll be selling the Chocolate Cookbook which will make a great addition to your gift of kisses to your loved ones. The mugs will sell for \$10.00. Please plan on your valentine shopping at St. John's and help support our Fellowship Ministry.

Senior Warden's Message

St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church continues to be a very busy community. Besides the work of our Search Committee, Vestry, Staff, and Volunteers, daily ongoing activities are numerous. They include Sunday Worship and church school, daily morning and evening prayer, several study/prayer groups, youth groups, choirs, bells, men's barbecue, St. John's Women's group (ECW), concerts, singles group, Cursillo, fellowship, compassion ministries, yoga, cooking for Salvation Army, St. John's bridge, helping hands, coffee hour, this newsletter publication, plus all the special events throughout the year. I'm sure I have forgotten several activities but that is not the point. The point is St. John's is a very busy, healthy, loving congregation reaching out to our surrounding local community.

All of this activity doesn't happen by accident. It happens because of the commitment of all of you. We need to be reminded that in spite of all the turmoil our church has gone through, St. John's remains a strong, vibrant, loving community who is looking forward to calling a permanent Rector in the near future. As we move forward, we need to do so with positive attitudes and not let the politics of the wider church or the negativeness of our news media defer us from our mission of "Celebrating and extending the love of Christ from within the Episcopal tradition"

As we move through this year, let us continue to pray for St. John's, Fathers Basil, Ray, Eric, Bishop Jerry, Cannon Mark, the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin, Presiding Bishop Katherine, and all the support staffs. Remember also in your prayers the Search Committee, Vestry, Wardens, staff and all volunteers. Pray for strength, guidance, reconciliation, understanding, love, faith and even for our challenges.

Let us be thankful for all our blessings and remember that 2009 is the year of the Positive Attitude.

John Ledbetter
Senior Warden



The Women of St. John's

The Women of St. John's is looking forward to an exciting year. It was a year of worry, stress, hope and prayer. This year looks new and hopeful to keep the souls of this beautiful church praising the Lord and filling the pews. With the oncoming of a new Rector, whomever this will be, as women, we need to help this person be as effective a leader as possible. We are not molding him or her but are to make the transition as smooth and as helpful as possible. One thing we must do is become the new rector's source to rely on for honest feedback.

The Women of St. John's want to share their talents and ideas and strength to existing ministries and the church in general to achieve their goals. Our Vision Statement reads "We want to share the love of Christ in our community through prayer, education, concern for others, with joyful service".

We set our meetings at early dinner, in hopes younger women will be able to participate. We do have childcare, and some really great meals. Our focus last year was the education of our youth. We had many steps forward and we not only had our best turnout of Vacation Bible School, we changed the face of our Sunday school program, which can always use volunteers. Please see Ruth Diekman or Steve Augusto.

We pray that the Women of St. John 's will continue to grow; we are a vital part of this church and have many ideas for the New Year to bring us together in the power and unity of the Lord.

Mary Knutsen



Historical Items

As a new year begins and as we think about celebrating the 100th anniversary of our Chapel we would like to collect all the historical information (books, photos, etc..) that everyone has been storing for St. John's. If you have any items, please call the office, 369-3381.

Search Committee

In January the Search Committee members visited our rector candidates in their churches and this month (February) the applicants and their spouses will be visiting St. John's.

We plan to host the couples for a weekend visit (each couple on a different weekend). This will provide them an opportunity to tour our city and the surrounding area so that they may have some knowledge of available and affordable housing, the business community, entertainment opportunities, medical care and schools. Of course, our farmers, orchards, vineyards, and wineries will be showcased.

The most important part of this visit is for the candidate to see our beautiful church in its lovely setting and to meet our warm, supportive congregation. The applicants will not participate in any services since this is their chance to view us. Please greet them warmly, but remember at this time the congregation is not interviewing them nor telling them our pet peeves. Just be friendly.

The Search Committee will host a social event that will include the vestry and church staff. This is primarily a 'meet and greet' function.

I pray that all of you will attend Sunday services in February so that our rector candidates can see what a great congregation we are.

Keep praying for your Search Committee, please.

Vanadeane Brooks
Chairman



Helping Hands

Thank you, Kathy Girard and Donna Hoffman, for providing assistance in January.

Helping Hands for the month of February will be Barbara Jones and Charlotte Rosson.

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

Ash Wednesday



February 25

7:30am • 12pm • 7pm

Adornment of the Liturgy

February 1 Elfonda Filomeo in loving memory of her sister, Laquita Gage, for her birthday February 3

Mary Dawson in loving memory of her husband, Euclid, for his birthday February 1 and for her grandson, Joseph, in celebration of his birthday February 2

Mrs. Jack Brooks in loving memory of her step-mother, Violet Carroll, for her birthday February 1

Joan Krack in loving memory of her son, Charles Pichetto, for his birthday February 2

February 8 Trude Glaves in loving memory of her husband's mother, Janice, for her birthday February 10 and in celebration of her daughter Janice's birthday also on February 10

February 15 Tony and Betty Ferrara in loving memory of her parents, Thomas and Uralia Gaines and his parents, Philomena and Anthony Ferrara

Diana and David Martin in loving memory of her grandmother, Beatrice Martinez, for her birthday February 12 and in celebration of the birthday of their children, Hannah and Joseph, February 15



St. John's Small Groups

While February is a short month, groups will continue meeting on their regular schedules. Please check with group leaders for details and for answers to your questions. New participants are always welcome.

Cursillo Reunion Groups meet on Mondays at noon year-round. Contacts are Frank Pegg, 369-9610 and Marilyn Cook, 334-3197. All interested persons are welcome.

St. John's Bridge Tournament play for 2008-2009 is continuing. Please keep games current. Contact Ruth Diekman, 369-2938 for information.

St. Margaret's Group is continuing the study of New Earth by Eric Toffer. For information about the date and location for the February meeting(s) please contact Claire Lima, 334-4047. The next study will be, The Shack, by William Paul Young.

Woman of Faith Study Group meets at 9:00 am at Barbara Jones' home, on the First and third Thursdays, The group is studying 2 Kings concurrently with A Wing and a Prayer, by Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori. Contacts are Barbara Jones, 368-6361 or Gretchen Nelson, 369-3952.

Study Group II is continuing the study of Timothy through Hebrews using the guide, A Church in Transition, edited by Leo Zanchettin. Regular meetings are the second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. in the church kitchen. The studies during February will include the Letters to Titus and Philemon. All are welcome to join the group. Please contact Ruth Diekman, 369-2938.

Yoga for Christians has resumed the regular Monday morning meetings from 10 am to 11:15 in the church nursery. Evening classes won't resume until further notice. Call Patsy Gorczyca for more details, 367-1812.

ECW (Episcopal Church Women of St. John) will not meet during February. Look for an announcement in the church bulletin for the March meeting. All women of the church are encouraged to participate. Contacts are Mary Knutsen, 366-2449 or Kathy Girard, 333-1570.

Singles Supper Club meets in alternate months and will not meet during February. Details for the March meeting will be announced in the next Newsletter.

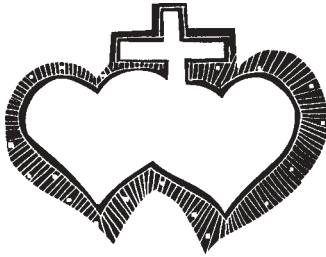
Men's Barbeque Group meets in alternate months. The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 8, 2009. John Ledbetter is the group contact.

Reminder: New groups may be formed whenever interest and leadership is identified.

Ruth Diekman, Small Groups Coordinator, 369-2938

February Anniversaries

- 7: Dianna and Jack Christy
- 13: Chris and Doug Wied
- 14: Rosemary and Richard Cress
Sarah and Tad Platt



A Birthday Prayer

Watch over thy child, O Lord, as his/her days increase; bless and guide him/her wherever he/she may be. Strengthen him/her when he/she stands; comfort him/her when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him/her up if he/she falls; and in his/her heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his/her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Bringing home palms

February Birthdays

- 1: Duke McDonnell
- 2: Cecil Brewer
Jack Christy
- 4: Laurel Bell
Chris Knutsen
Jeannette Waechter
- 5: Yinka Olowoyeye
- 7: Roscoe Brownfield
- 8: John Ledbetter
- 11: Elfonda Filomeo
- 12: Edmund Freund
Becky Loiacono
Erik Raught
- 13: Diane Chard
Zachary Devitt
- 15: Hannah Martin
Joseph Martin
- 16: Kenneth McConnell
Nancy Walker
- 18: Rachel Peterson
Virginia Brunskill
- 19: Julie Buchmiller
Betty Friston
Deb Shook
- 20: Jonas Knutson
Tina Newsome
Reagan Troy Wuelfing
- 21: Heather Jennings
Jordin Kafton
Walter Wolterstorff
- 23: Emily Freund
- 26: Christian Raught
- 27: Chester George
Sarah Kate Kafton
Katharine Tudor
- 28: Tom Gundershaug
Elaine Sager
- 29: Ida Mae Lobb

St. John's Youth Group will be serving the
traditional

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 24
from
5:00 pm to 7:30 pm



0-4 years:	Free
5-12 years:	\$5
13-64 years:	\$7
Seniors (65+):	\$5
Family Pack (up to 5 tickets):	\$20

Coffee Hour

Thank you to Lila Smith, Claire Stone, Beth Elwood, and Kathy Girard for hosting coffee hour in the month of January.

Please be sure to check our coffee hour schedule and see if you can host one Sunday service! Our sign-up sheet is in the kitchen or on the coffee hour table.

Thank you all for taking time to keep our fellowship going. I know everyone enjoys a cup of coffee and a treat after service.

Pledge Confirmation

At the end of January a letter of pledge confirmation was issued; please review the letter for accuracy; if you don't receive a letter, please call the office.

If you would like to continue or start automatic withdrawals for your pledge, please sign up in the office.



Notes From The Church Mouse

Our Lord called Charlyn Lauchland's husband, Jack, home. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Lauchland family.

We grieve with the families of:

Diane Burkett on the death of her brother, John Marquardt

Donna Lind on the death of her mother, Geraldine Pinder

Katy, Kevin and Patrick Walton on the death of their grandfather, Patrick Sawai

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.



Congratulations to Tom and Linda Garing, their son, Chris and his wife Kellie have welcomed Jackson Christopher Garing born December 11.

Congratulations on the birth of Ryley Chase to Shawna and Chase Trueman, grandmother, Karen Trueman and great-grandmother, Yvonne Schildt.

Adorning The Altar For Easter

__Check here if you participated last year and want your entry to remain the same. Fill in only your name on this form. Finally, put your donation money and this form in an envelope and put it in 'The Box'.

__Check here if you want to change last year's wording, or if you are doing this for the first time. Please fill out this form completely, place it and your donation money in an envelope and put it in 'The Box'.

A minimum donation of \$25.00 is requested. All paid adornments will be published in the Easter bulletin and the May newsletter.

Thank you!

ADORNMENT FORM FOR EASTER

Adornment in thanksgiving /in honor of / in memory of: (circle one)

Given by: (print clearly)

Your phone number: _____

Events In February

- Friday, February 6:** Cooking for Salvation Army, 5:30 pm
- Monday, February 16:** Office Closed in observation of President's Day
Youth Snow Day
- Tuesday, February 24:** Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:00 pm
- Wednesday, February 25:** Ash Wednesday Services
7:30 am Chapel
12:00 pm Chapel
7:00 pm Church
- Friday, February 27:** Youth 30-Hour Famine

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



Ongoing Events

- Sundays:** Holy Eucharist: 8:30 am
Sunday School Program: 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)
10:30 a.m. Sunday School Program:
Pre-school, Nursery (ages 3 and 4)
Grades K- 3, Hospitality Room
Grades 4 - 6, Breezeway
Men's BBQ: 5:00 pm, church (first, alternate months)
Youth Bells: 6:00 to 6:45 pm, church
Youth Group: 6:45 to 8:00 pm, church
- Mondays:** Morning Prayer: 8:30 am, chapel (Monday - Friday)
Cursillo Men's group: Noon, Frank Pegg
Cursillo Women's group: Noon, Marilyn Cook
Evening Prayer: 5:30 pm, chapel (Monday-Friday)
St. Margaret's Group 7:00 pm, Claire Lima (first and third)
Yoga for Christians 10:00 am, church: Patsy Gorczyca
- Tuesdays:** Study Group II: 9:15 am, Ruth Diekman
(second and fourth)
- Wednesdays:** Choristers Group: 4:30 pm, church (begins Feb. 4)
Choir Rehearsal: 7:00 to 8:30 pm, church
- Thursdays:** Women of Faith Study Group 9:00 am, Barbara Jones
(first and third)
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, Sara Heberle
(fourth, alternate months)
- Any day or time:** Green Piece, church garden upkeep

