

Ongoing Events

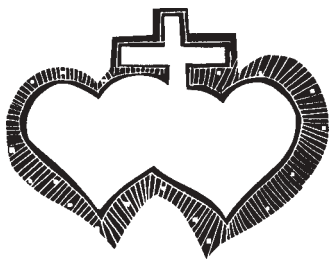
- Sundays:** Holy Eucharist: 8:30 am
Godly Play: 8:30 am, Hospitality room (grades K to 6)
Nursery Care: 8:30 am to noon
Holy Eucharist: 10:30 am
Preschool Class: 10:30 am, Nursery (ages 3 and 4)
Godly Play: 10:30 am, Hospitality room (grades K to 6)
Men's BBQ: 5:00 pm, church (first, alternate months)
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)
St. Margaret's Group 7:00 pm, Claire Lima (first and third)
- 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
- 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



Events In January

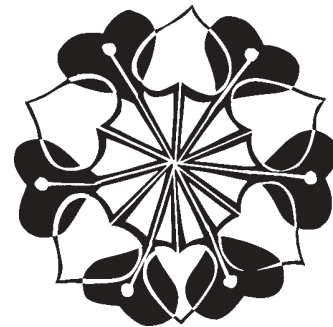
Tuesday, January 1:	Office Closed
Sunday, January 6:	Intergenerational Service, 10:30 am Brightest and Best Concert, featuring Robin Knutson and Eugene Friesen, 3:00 pm
Sunday, January 13:	Men's Barbecue, 5:00 pm
Tuesday, January 15:	Newsletter Deadline
Sunday, January 27:	Annual All Parish Meeting, 4:00 pm
Tuesday, February 5	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, 5:00 pm
Wednesday, February 6	Ash Wednesday, 7:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm

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



January Anniversaries

19: Deb and Rich Shook
28: Edyth and John Ledbetter



January Birthdays

1: Eddie Knutsen Jan Manildi Lewis Woodbridge	8: Bob Clottu Paul George Persis Ledbetter	21: Dillon Buck Vinita Shinn Jennifer Tudor
3: Betty Ferrara Andrew James Kafton	9: Amy Adams	23: Darlyn Rae Bristow
4: Sonja Dalton	11: Faith Freund	25: Mary Ellen McConnell
5: James Bunn	Stefano Lima	30: Betty Bandelin Jeanne Ledbetter
6: Jonathan Langone Joan Stowell Robert Van Dusen	17: Claire Augusto Frances Nieman	Scot Martin
7: Carol Foote	19: James R Allen Ed Bowen Carrie Martin	31: Kathryn Tempel

Youth News

We had a busy December, with our Youth participating in significant ways in the Advent Litany on December 2, and Advent Lessons and Carols the same Sunday afternoon. They also represented St. John's at the Lodi Parade of Lights and the Lighting of the Hospice Tree in front of our City Hall (despite lots of rain!). Our Youth Bells played in worship the following Sunday and then worked to create wonderful cookie tins as an end of the year fundraiser for youth activities. In January, we hope to enjoy some time off, get up to the snow and prepare for some annual events in February, including Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 5 and the 30-Hour Famine later in the month.

Katie Newsome continues to be a great help as our Youth Leader, with wonderful help from volunteers Aleathea Langone, Chrissy Sager and Randy Knutson. Youth Bells continue meeting on Sunday nights at 6:00 pm with Youth Group immediately following at 6:45 pm.



Editor's Corner



My mom has broken her arm and she stayed with me for a week, since she's off work. Together we visited the local Wal-Mart, and while she searched the pharmacy area for something, I watched the people around us. Mothers with Christmas-eager children swirled around bachelors buying potato chips. Giggling groups of girls clustered around hair accessories while motherly elders passed, smiling gently in remembrance. One man in coveralls strode down the central aisle, noticing nobody and taking nothing from any shelves. As he breezed by, he left a trail of dirt. Mud had clung to his shoes and was now drying out, dropping off in bits as he walked. He continued to look ahead, and didn't notice the trail he was leaving any more than he noticed the people around him.

My mother returned to me, having found what she wanted, but I was mesmerized by the trail of dirt. "Look," I told her, "that's exactly like our path to God." (Luckily she's used to me and my words didn't cause her to panic or look around wildly for help.)

"What?" she asked.

"We're just like that man who left the dirt," I said. "Look," I pointed at the bits of dirt now being trampled and scattered by the shoppers. "We walk toward God. It's a difficult journey, fraught with temptation and distraction, but we know that where we're headed is worth it. So we don't let anyone distract us, we ignore temptation, and we stride on, toward God. Behind us, we leave bits of dirt. Our sin, our bad habits, anything that burdens us down and slows our journey. And all of those bits make a trail, for others to follow. I want to make a path like that."

My mom was quiet for a moment as she looked down the aisle. Then she pointed where the man had gone. "Let's go that way," she said.

And we did.

Michelle Hakala

Ash Wednesday



February 6

7:30am • 12pm • 7pm

Linen Ladies

The Linen Ladies have been blessed again with Paula Saubolle volunteering to assist with the ironing. We now have four ladies: Paula Saubolle, Barbara Jones, Deb Shook, and Gretchen Nelson.

'Tis a blessed year!



Lenten Soup Suppers and Program

Our Lenten Soup Suppers will begin Thursday, February 14, after evening prayer. Watch the weekly bulletin announcements for further details.

Annual All Parish Meeting

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 27, for the Annual Parish Meeting at the church from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. There will be a short business meeting (annual reports handed out and presentation of the 2008 budget), then a potluck and social time.



Fellowship Cookie Exchange

Fellowship held their first Cookie Exchange on December 15, with delicious cookies for everyone! It was a great afternoon of fellowship and treats! Our thanks to Mary and Kathy for organizing this event.



2007 Stewardship Drive

The Fall Festival of Renewal and Rededication was held on Sunday, November 4. The Stewardship Committee designed the format of the gathering to be both pleasant and functional. We elected new vestry members, Steve Augusto and Walt Wolterstorff; elected delegates to the convention, Andee Zeterbaum and Ejae Brown; and collected our 2008 Pledge Cards. From a display of our forty-two ministries, we rededicated ourselves to continue the work of our church.

Our evening began in prayer and song and ended with a delightful fellowship potluck dinner. Thank you to Mary Ellen Beckman, who headed and assembled the fine crew to assist with the potluck. The overall consensus of the attendees was quite positive and supportive; some asked for more such opportunities for social gatherings in the future.

We were happy that you enjoyed the "St. John's Bingo" game. We thank everyone who volunteered to make the evening a success.

Your Stewardship Committee, Celisse Johnson, Corky Kuykendall, John Olowoyeye

St. John's in the Community

On November 12, our dear neighbor, Laura Angel, lost a long battle with breast cancer, leaving behind her husband, James, daughter Ashley, age ten and son, James, Jr. age seven.

The Angels had attended St. John's on several occasions, but did not have a "home" church. James asked if it would be possible to have a celebration of Laura's life at St. John's on November 30, at 10:00 a.m. He had thought to have a service at the funeral home handling the arrangements but felt it would not create the memories he had hoped for his children.

How wonderfully St. John's responded to this devastated young husband and father!

Father Basil, in his gentle and comforting way, with soft words; sweet Robin, picking the perfect prelude, "Angel Eyes," and playing it for James during the planning session; Yvonne Schildt, Eighth Day Ministry, for her knowledgeable guidance and care; Norma Yeoman and her designer crew for their loving ministry through adornment; Kathy Girard and Mary Knutsen for meeting with James and planning the reception with Laura's friends from Costco; Ann Marie for her conscientious preparation of the bulletin and keeping track of details; Jack Cook, for graciously serving as LEM during a difficult time; Cecil Brewer, for manning our sound system during the service; Julie Buchmiller, Marilyn Cook, and the Altar Guild's assistance; the kitchen team of Kathy Girard, Mary Knutsen, Barbara Jones and Gretchen Nelson; Nancy Thompson for videotaping the event for Laura's parents, who were unable to attend; and Ramon, for setting up the tables for the reception. Together, we made a difference.

There were over two hundred friends of the Angel family who came and were warmly welcomed to our beautiful church. To all of you, we say thank you. You truly embody our credo of "Extending and celebrating the love of Christ through the Episcopal tradition."

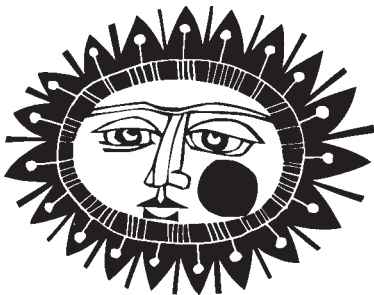
Rich and Deb Shook



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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 5
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

Jim and Anne Reeve, in loving memory of their son, John, and their fathers, Roger Reeve and George Webster

Ann Rogers, in thanksgiving for many wonderful blessings

Charlotte Rosson, in thanksgiving for family and friends

Elaine Sager, in loving memory of her husband, Donald, and her parents, Walter and Rosalee Pierce

Vinita Shinn, in loving memory of her husband, Bob, and her parents, John and Eula Coulter

Dorothy Snyder, in loving memory of her parents, Lydia and Alexander Chappuis; her brother, Louis Chappuis; and for Fred and Addine Snyder

Jack Harrison, Claire Stone and Jordan Kennedy, in thanksgiving for many wonderful blessings

Marilyn and Persis Seiferling-Ledbetter, in thanksgiving for their parents, Bernice and Percy Ritchie

Marilyn Thompson and family, in loving memory of Joe Thompson

James D. Martin and Jon Townsend, to the glory of God and in memory of Kenneth W. Townsend

Sperry Utz, in loving memory of her husband, Joseph; her parents, Peter and Maria Sparacino; her sister and brothers; and thanksgiving for her children and grandchildren

Joel and Nancy Walker, in thanksgiving for their sons, Tim and Evan Walker

The Walton family, in loving memory of Gene

Mike Williams, in loving memory of Irving Williams

Pam Williams, in loving memory of her mother, Frieda Muscardini, and her best friend, Debbie DeVore

Dick, Janie, Lindsey, and Allison Williams, in thanksgiving for family and friends

Walter and Barbara Wolterstorff, in loving memory of their parents, for thanksgiving of family and friends and Matthew's first Christmas.

Roxy Woodard, in loving memory of her parents, Barbara and Edward Voss, and in-laws, Clem and Woody Woodard

Eric and Norma Yeoman, in memory of Maggie Mae Yeoman and parents, Fred and Marseillette Yeoman

Joan C. Krack, in loving memory of her sister, Isabel D. Britton; her husband, Syl H. Krack; and Charles L Pichetto and family

Jim and Karen Kuykendall, in loving memory of their daughter, Gia; their granddaughter, Amanda; and their parents

Jim and Jeanne Ledbetter and family, in loving memory of Barbara Ledbetter, Mike and Marge Suess

Jim and Jeanne Ledbetter, in thanksgiving for family and many blessings

John and Edyth Ledbetter, in celebration of the life of her parents, Grace and Ernie Ellis; his mother, Barbara Ledbetter; and for the blessings of children and grandchildren

Keith Ledbetter, in loving memory of his wife, Barbara; their parents, Mae and George Ledbetter and Gertrude and Walter Mundt

Persis Seiferling-Ledbetter, in loving memory of Jack

Norman and Patsy Lithco, in loving memory of Robert and Elizabeth Lithco; Norval and Elizabeth Gundershaug; and Claire Louise Gundershaug Pena

Ida Mae Lobb, in loving memory of her husband, Joe Lobb; her mother, Mary; and his mother, Elizabeth

Richard Lukasiewicz, in loving memory of Barbara Lukasiewicz

Steve and Jan Manildi, in thanksgiving for family and friends

Shirley Michaeloff, in loving memory of her husband and son, George Michaeloff and Kevin T. Michaeloff

Ken and Polly Morgan, in thanksgiving for their son, Al Morgan, and daughter-in-law, Sharon, for going beyond the call of duty for caring for Ken during his illness; you're definitely an angel sent from God

Russ and Kathryn Munson, in thanksgiving for many wonderful blessings

Gretchen Nelson, in loving memory of Robert Nelson

John and Gwinnett Paden, in thanksgiving for our families and many wonderful blessings

Linda Parker, in loving memory of her mother and father

Frank Pegg, in loving memory of his wife, Joyce; his parents, Frank and Evelyn Pegg; Joyce's parents, John and Beatrice Parker; and Frank's brother, Kenneth

Tad and Sarah Gay Platt, in thanksgiving for family

Elfonda Filomeo, for all God's blessings and in memory of Brandon

JoEllen Fortenberry-Ford and James Ford, in memory of their mothers and thanksgiving for both of them whom they lost recently

Chester and Alice George, in thanksgiving for their grandchildren

Judy and Jerry Geradot, in thanksgiving for Kaylee and Jayden

Trudy Glaves, in loving memory of her husband, Henry Glaves

Goehring families and Belmonte families, in loving memory of Jack Seiferling, father and grandfather

Patsy and Bob Gorczyca, in memory of her mother, Oletta Mae Tymkowych; her father, Harry Yeager; and Bob's parents, Stella and John Gorczyca

Patty Grauman, in loving memory of her parents, Bill and Lynda Barker, and Ellie Olsson, her godmother

Linda and Jack Harkins, in thanksgiving for God's blessings for family, friends, and their church

Nancy Hammond, in memory of Jim Hammond and his parents, Eunice and J.A. Hammond

Nancy Hennefer, in memory of her father, Glenn Hofsommer, and her brother, Bill Hofsommer

Sara Heberle, in thanksgiving for many wonderful blessings, and for her family and church family who mean everything to her

Jim and Margie Hickey, in loving memory of Jim's parent's, Jim and Helen Hickey, and of Margie's brother, Ned Taylor

Donna and Bob Hoffman, in memory of their daughter, Kimberly Crespi, and granddaughters, Tessara and Samantha Crespi

Celisse Johnson, in thanksgiving for many wonderful blessings

Lois Johnson and the Knutson family, in loving memory of Garland, husband, father and grandfather

Barbara Jones, in memory of her husband, Tom; her father, Harry Henderson; her mother Velma; and Tom's mother, Frederika Jones

Shirley Joy, in loving memory of Turner Joy

The Kafton family, in thanksgiving for the lives of Jim Gerard, Jagger Kafton and Mel and Rick Wagner

Father Ray Knapp, in memory of his beloved wife, Louise

Christmas 2007

Adornment of the Liturgy

Mary Ellen Beckman, in love and thanksgiving for her family and friends and in loving memory of Kenneth

Cecil Brewer, in loving memory of Charlotte Brewer

Mrs. Jack Brooks, in loving memory of her husband, Jack; his parents, Jack D. and Margaret Brooks; her dad, Thomas R. Carroll; her uncle and aunt, William and Genevieve Carroll; and her parents, Walter and Lillie Parker

Mr. and Mrs. Orville Buchmiller, in loving memory of her parents, Robert and Mary Trumbly; her grandmother, Agnes Trumbly; his father, John Buchmiller; and Grace Buchmiller and Kathey Cargile

Susan Burke, in memory of her husband, Bob, and all other members of her family

Diana and Jack Christy in loving memory of her mother, June Buck Christy; her father, George Buck Jr.; and Jack's mother, Dorothy Ellen Christy

Jeannette Waechter Clottu, in loving memory of Ted Waechter and her parents, Hans and Jeannette Magnussen

Melanie Cook, Candy Satterlee and families, in thanksgiving for their father, Ray Knapp, and in loving memory of their mother, Louise Knapp

Jeanne D'Angeli in memory of her father, Robert DeWilde, and her sister, Suzanne

Sonja Dalton, in loving memory of her husband, Henry, and family members

Mary Dawson, in loving memory of her husband, Euclid; her father, William Brock; and her brother, Herb Brock

Beth and Jim Elwood, in loving memory of Dar Lindsley, Mary Elwood, Bill Ferry, Jeff Ferry, and Anthony Oddo

Sharon Farnsworth, in loving memory of George Farnsworth and in thanksgiving for family present and departed

Patricia Fehling, in loving memory of her husband, Don; her father, Charles Lambert; her mother, Lenora Lambert; and in thanksgiving for St. John's

Betty and Tony Ferrara, in loving memory of Thomas and Ura Lee Gaines, and Anthony and Philomena Ferrara

Tom and Julee Ferrara, in loving memory of Jeanette Hubbard and Austin Ferrara

Designers Guild

The Designers Guild is so grateful for the offerings of our parish to support our work. We hope we are worthy of this support.

The preparation for our Christmas presentation gave us many problems. One of which were the huge trees of great beauty located by our Mary Knutsen. A plea to our male parishioners was answered by a work party of many men. Before I knew it, the trees were in their stands, watered and ready. It was amazing to see the men work.

Kevin Walton "threw the ball" to hang our beautiful banners of gold and a paisley print. He is quite an artist, arranging the banners to enhance the decor of our church. The strength necessary to raise these thirty-foot lengths of heavy material can only be done with his youth and magnificent shoulders. I hope you saw his flying wreath in the back of the church, which is another one of his specialties.

Jim Allen, a new member to our church, is now a marked man with a truck. Our large vases, although not heavy, must be transported by a large vehicle from their storage in Mary Ellen's wonderful shed. He took a day out of his busy schedule to do this. Thank you, Jim.

Our gift of three new members filled the ranks of those away during the Christmas holidays. Those new members include Richie Beckman, Shirley Pearce and Kathy Girard. Each of them bring energy and different talents to our endeavors.

We were blessed again this year by beautiful evergreen swags, wreaths (some huge) and boxes of pine, cedar and fir by the owners of United Evergreens. Many of you know these wonderful giving persons as they were members of our church. These gifts can only be found in their inventory. Art's Christmas Tree Lot, another of the generous establishments in Lodi, supplied us with twenty wonderful trees. We are so grateful.

Christmas at St. John's is a night of magic filled with hope for the world and our Episcopal church in our celebration of Jesus' birth. We hope you had a merry Christmas and will have a happy new year.

Norma



Liturgical Notes

Recently, I finished my third class at Church Divinity School of the Pacific, this time in Liturgics. As I was finishing one of two questions on the final, I realized the essay written that day might make a good article for Liturgical Notes. I believe it might also disclose what I was learning, how worship life at St. John's was from my perspective and perhaps, in our current situation, with some charges coming from our former Diocesan Office and Fresno and even from members of local churches, like St. John's in Stockton, - that there is much "unorthodox theology" going around parishes like ours - it might help to see what kind of study and learning was going on. I will also be happy to share next month if I received a passing grade or not!

Comment on this quote: "To the extent that living members of the praying church back by their lives what they say in their ritual, to that extent their ritual will be honest and credible."

Ritual and action, worship and theology are bound together. This is a truism we still wrestle with, even today. We mistakenly believe we can worship in exclusionary boundary-creating ways, yet claim to be welcoming. We can also worship in seemingly spirit-filled, unstructured ways and insist on rigid beliefs and theology. However, our actions betray our minds and our intentions. There is a saying from the personal development world, "I can't hear what you are trying to tell me, because your actions are telling me something else!"

Our worship should clearly disclose our theology and vice versa. There is a duplicity in worship that says what we do and pray and not who we are. This is not to say worship can't attempt to portray who we hope to be. But if it is true that our praying (and worship) shapes our believing (formation), it also points to our inner life with God. For a community of faith, corporate worship is a sign of what is believed, a symbol of the Christian life, but also the engine of living that life into the world. Worship must be universal enough to be recognized, but contextual enough to look and mirror relevancy to those assembled. It must disclose who we have been, reflect who we are and direct what we shall be.

Randy Knutson

Coffee Hour



A big thank you to Sperry Utz for her coffee donations to our kitchen.

For the month of December, we give thanks to Lila Smith, Joan Krack, Sara Heberle, Nancy Hammond, Beth Elwood, JoEllen Fortenbury-Ford and family, Martha Scott and the vestry. Thanks to all for a great job!

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 in the new year.

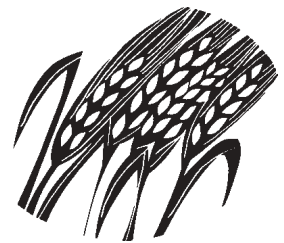
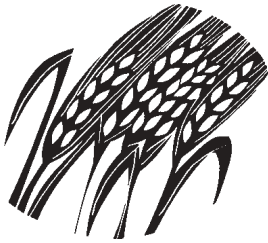
Blessings,
Kathy Girard



Notes From The Church Mouse

We grieve with the families of Greg Waddington, Garrett Cook, Ron Bascou and Laura Angel.

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, 333-8435 or winebird@winebird.com.



Message From The Senior Warden

As you read this article, we have already started the new church calendar year with the beginning of Advent/Christmas season. We have also begun the new calendar year at St. John's with some uncertainties and questions as a result of the Annual Diocesan Convention. As you and your vestry have maintained, St. John the Baptist remains a part of the Episcopal Church USA. What that means as we move forward is uncertain. What is certain is that we have the support of neighboring diocese, Remain Episcopal, and the national church. For attending the convention and representing St. John's, I would like to thank Ejae Brown, Richard Cress, Corky Kuykendall, Andee Zetterbaum, and Father Basil. They represented St. John's with dignity.

In light of the convention, your vestry of Barbara Krengel, John Ledbetter, John Olowoyeye, Richard Cress, Celisse Johnson, Elaine Sager, Clare Stone, Steve Augusto and Walt Wolterstorff continue to plan for the **future** of St. John's. John Ledbetter was elected Senior Warden and John Olowoyeye was elected Junior Warden for 2008. Your administrative team, lead by Randy Knutson, Ann Marie Addler, and Pat Fehling remains in place. Fathers Basil, Ray, Eric, and Tony continue to support our spiritual needs. Randy and Robin plan for our music ministry. Your vestry and treasurer, Edyth Ledbetter, continue to plan for our financial obligations. Your Search Committee continues to make progress in the search process.

So in spite of the outcome of the convention, there is a positive **feeling** at St. John's about our future. Remember that St. John's and our diocese have been around for over one hundred years. We have a rich heritage which connects us with those who have gone before us and those who will come after us. Our responsibility for now and the future is to "Celebrate and extend the love of Christ from within the Episcopal tradition."

Continue to pray for St. John's church, Fathers Basil, Ray, Eric, Tony, your search committee, your vestry and wardens, our new diocese and our national church leadership for guidance, wisdom, acceptance, forgiveness, and love for each other in our similarities and differences. Thanks be to God.

John Ledbetter, Senior Warden

MEN'S BARBEQUE



ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2008

5:00 PM

BRING A FRIEND

Adornment of the Liturgy

January 14

Roxy and Steve Woodard in loving memory of her mother, Barbara Voss, for her birthday, January 17.

Corky and Karen Kuykendall in loving memory of their daughter, Angela Dawn Kuykendall, and granddaughter, Amanda Dawn Klaff, for their mutual birthdays, January 18.

Mrs. Jack Brooks in loving memory of her husband's great aunt, Nellie Chester, for her birthday, January 18.

January 21

Nancy Hammond in loving memory of her husband, Jim, for his birthday, January 18.

Mrs. Jack Brooks in loving memory of her father-in-law, Jack D. Brooks, for his birthday, January 23.

January 28

John and Edyth Ledbetter in celebration of their 40th wedding anniversary, January 28.

Lucian and Cynthia Neely in loving memory of his mother, Lucy Neely, for her birthday, January 16.



Search Committee



This new year will be an important one for our St. John's. Your search committee's New Year's resolution is assisting the vestry in finding the rector of your dreams. To that end, we will continue to elicit your input in a variety of ways.

Some of you have asked for the results of Card I, II, and IV. We are happy to comply. The tabulations of cards I and II are on the ministry table in the narthex. Card IV results will be there by mid-January.

Also in January, each member of the congregation age sixteen or older will be asked to complete "St John's Congregational Survey." This is a very important survey because it includes all the areas of our church life:

Where you believe the church is now

Where you think the church can improve and grow

What qualities you believe the new rector should possess

The Search Committee thanks you for completing the question cards, for your suggestions, and your support. May we all enjoy a fruitful new year.

St. John's Small Groups

"Joy to the World," and a "Happy New Year," too. Participation with a small group will contribute to your joy and happiness as well as provide positive stimulation in 2008.

Women of Faith Study Group will continue meeting Thursdays at 9:00 am, at the home of Barbara Jones. The January study will conclude 2 Samuel and begin Kings. The first January meeting will be January 10, the second Thursday, not the first Thursday. The second January meeting will be January 17, resuming the regular third Thursday meeting schedule. While studying Kings, the group will also be reading *A Wing and A Prayer*, by Bishop Katharine Jefferts-Schori. For more information, please call Barbara Jones or Gretchen Nelson.

Study Group II will continue meeting at the church on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 9:15 am. 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 and the beginning of a new study is an especially good time to join.

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, *First Light*, by Sue Monk Kidd, to begin Monday, January 7. Meetings are the first and third Mondays at 7:00 pm. This would be an excellent time to join the group. Please call Claire Lima for information and location.

Yoga for Christians groups meet Mondays at 9:30 am and Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in the church. The first meeting in 2008 will be Monday, January 7. Please call Patsy Gorczyca for details and when attending for the first time.

Singles Supper Club will meet for a soup supper on Friday, January 25, at the home of Gretchen Nelson. Please call for further details. Sara Heberle is the coordinator for this group.

Green Piece is an opportunity for self-selected involvement. The churchyard garden has thoughtfully been divided into manageable plots. It's not too late to select an area or join with others in a previously chosen spot. Please call Rich Shook for information. The old adage, "Many hands make light work," applies.

The Bridge Tournament play for 2007-2008 is under way. Please keep current with the schedule. For information, contact Sara Heberle or me.

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



**See The Arts at St. John's page for our
upcoming concert, January 6, 2008**

Message From The (Interim) Rector



My Dear Friends,

On New Year's eve it is customary to bid farewell to the old year and welcome in the new one. It is also a custom to make New Year's resolutions, usually to say farewell to them as well as the glitter wears off and the "new year" becomes "more of the same" and a little tarnished. Just occasionally, however, a resolution rings true and remains firm. What about a resolution to "cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light?" [Romans 13:11-12]; St. Paul continues with the exhortation "to live honorably as in the day not in quarreling and jealousy." In other words, be grateful and be content and be open to change.

The above is a warning that, if we are not careful, we shall mistake light for dark and dark for light; so that truth itself may become unclear and uncertain and before we know where we are we're lost again. But, remember the resolution and listen again and again to the Advent exhortation of the Baptist to prepare the Way of the Lord by way of repentance. Beware of complacency. The Devil would have us believe we are just fine when we feel good, even "holy," and are riding along comfortably, satisfied with ourselves and quietly patting ourselves on the back. Pride. St. Ignatius Loyola defined pride as "an inordinate love of one's own perfection." That would make us enemies of all we hold to be true, good and holy. They are attributes of God. Our participation in God, and hence in his attributes, are not things for us to congratulate ourselves about, but opportunities to give thanks; thanks for the free outpouring of God's grace that comes to us when we acknowledge our indebtedness and our need for forgiveness and reconciliation.

The Christmas season draws to a close at Epiphany, when the Christ child is shown to the whole world, symbolized by the Three Kings. Easter is coming early this year; so is Lent and so is Ash Wednesday. The "Shrove" in Shrove Tuesday comes from the ancient verb to shrive; that is, confession, forgiveness and reconciliation - in a word, be shriven. Enjoy the pancakes and take Lent seriously; do not be intimidated by it. The word Lent is an ancient term for the season of spring and should, therefore, be a season of opportunity and eager longing and preparation for the glory of Easter! In Lent, Alleluia falls silent on our lips as we await its resurrection.

With love and best wishes,

Father Basil+





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

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Lodi, CA
Permit No. 161

Address Service Requested



St. John's Newsletter

January 2008

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*
Michelle Hakala, *Editor*
Mandi Sager, *Nursery Care Provider*
Ramon and Camerina Ibarra, *Sextons*
Tel: (209) 369-3381 Fax: (209) 369-2381
Office hours: Monday - Friday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
email: stjohnslodi@sbcglobal.net
www.stjohnsoflodi.org