

### *From your Assistant Rector*

#### **ADVENT: Making space when there is no room.**

Advent is a season that has been slowly overtaken by a combination of events that include holiday celebrations, shopping, lights and decorations, and joyful carols. Historically, Advent was intended to be a season of fasting much like Lent. However, the reality is that this hectic time of preparation for holiday events has steadily outpaced the “penitential” time of preparation, and has just about worked its way completely out of the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas. Given the choice of celebration versus penance, it is understandable why this change has occurred. It also does not help that Advent ironically follows the one holiday in America where families and friends still gather, usually crammed together at a common table, for a celebratory harvest feast that usually leaves little space in between each person, elbow, plate and cup. This feast sets the stage for what is now a season that is jam packed with events celebrating the 12 days of a joyous season that is still yet to come: The Christmas season.

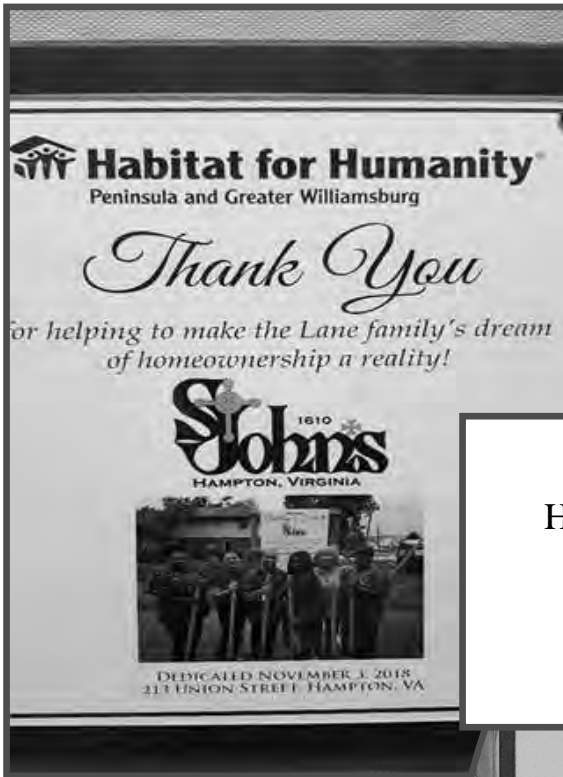


In fact, most people have gotten “so far ahead” that when the real Christmas season arrives, the celebrations are already over, and they are planning for what is next! Churches, like most Thanksgiving tables, are forced to compact all of the Advent and Christmas Seasons into one or two days (or services) in order to offer some kind of continuity that transitions to the season of Epiphany (the arrival and revelation of Jesus to the Magi). Generally we move ahead from Christmas right to Epiphany, which reveals the influence of our current culture’s desire to quickly arrive at the answer or the destination. The expectation of jumping directly from the start to the end has reduced our “seasons” down to a single day or event.

In this season of Advent we would be wise to consider the words of Viktor E. Frankl, an Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist as well as a Holocaust survivor: “Between stimulus and response there is a space. In that space is our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our freedom.” Stephen Covey added to that thesis: “Ultimately, this power to choose is what defines us as human beings.” The demands of the world influence or stimulate every part of our lives, and, if we allow it, can alter our response to our faith. As human beings, created in the image of God, we cannot allow the volume of “stimuli” that is dumped on us to control our “response”. Covey continued that we must try and expand this “space” so that we have the opportunity to offer our best response. One way we can do that is to take a serious look at how we prepare in Advent.

Over the next four weeks, we will be offering an opportunity to live into our faith and prepare ourselves for all that is to come. Our Advent curriculum “Journeying the Way of Love” offers four sessions specifically for Advent, to be explored as we await the coming of Christ, by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke (alternate years of the lectionary tend to cover the same themes with parallel texts).

Luke’s gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world. I hope you will join us as we seek to fully live into our Advent season. Grace and Peace, Mark+

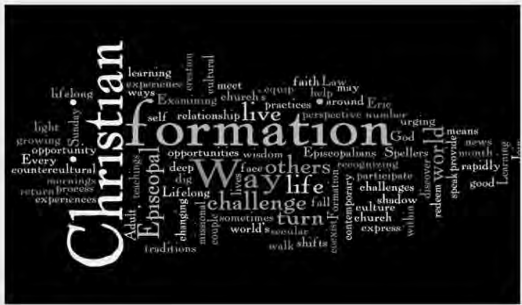


Sunday, 11-19-2018  
Homeowner Vickie Lane  
at  
St. John's





With just about 100 pledges received to date the average pledge has edged up to about \$3200 per year. This is wonderful but, sadly, there are still just under 20 parishioners who have pledged in past years but from whom we have yet heard. If these good folks were able to pledge we would be able to reach our planned for budget for 2019. The Stewardship Committee thanks all those who have pledged and hopes that the outstanding pledges will soon become a reality. –*Stephen Rous*



There will be **NO** Christian Formation classes on December 30, 2018.

During the month of December the Youth and Young Disciples classes will be preparing and practicing for the annual Christmas Eve Pageant which will be during the 5pm Family Service. The pageant coordinators are Sandy Smith and Nancy Beach. If you have any questions please contact one of them.



Book Club has finished the Clare Fergusson/Russ Van Alstyne Mystery series by Julia Fleming-Spenser. We **will NOT meet on Monday, December 3rd**. Monday, December 10th we will meet for an Advent Party at the home of Scott and Linda Curtis. Please bring a beverage and finger food to share. We will meet again on Monday, January 6th on the stage to discuss Becoming Mrs. Lewis by Patti Callahan Henry. For more information contact Shannon Olson, [formation@stjohnshampton.org](mailto:formation@stjohnshampton.org)

We will read and discuss the Book of Joel on December 5th and will complete the calendar year with 1-2 of the shorter but important books from the Old Testament. We meet on Wednesdays at 2:30pm in the Library/Stage area. Join us or contact Mark with any questions: [mark@stjohnshampton.org](mailto:mark@stjohnshampton.org). "Drop In" visitors are truly welcome!

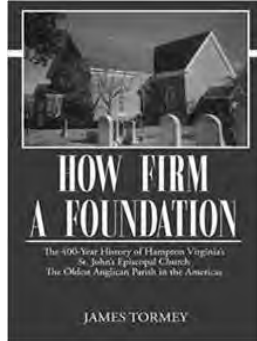
## Bible Study



## Adult Forum

**ADULT FORUM: Journeying the Way of Love - Advent Curriculum.** For the season of Advent, Journeying the Way of Love offers four sessions to be explored as we await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke (alternate years of the lectionary tend to cover the same themes with parallel texts). Luke's gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world. The sessions are especially designed for use

during the Christian formation hour before or after worship. Please join in the discussion at 9:15am in the parish hall. All are welcome.



This insightful and informative book written by our own Jim Tormey walks the reader from the Jamestown settlement in 1607 through the founding at Kecoughtan—the original name of the town—three wars and four church buildings. Almost miraculously, the fourth, built in 1728, survived all that Hampton’s turbulent history has thrown its way, including a devastating fire that leveled the town during the Civil War. Pick up your copy in the church office for \$20.00.



St. John’s Young Adult Group

11-18-2018

The Vanguard

*Stay tuned for the next gathering or event.*

## Blanket Making

Jenn Devlin and Emily Klotz led an Outreach project with the youth and children. They made Fleece Blankets for the dogs at the Animal Aid Shelter of Hampton Roads. We also collected food and treats to donate.



## Volunteer Opportunity:

St. Mark's will be hosting Night’s Welcome December 15th through the night of the 21st. They are asking local church to consider volunteering. They are looking for volunteers:

- to help with breakfasts, beginning at 5 am each day (December 16-21)
- to help cook and serve evening meals-prep beginning around 4, service at 6:30
- Overnight chaperones, at least one male and one female each night
- Folks to greet and share fellowship with our guests each morning and evening (this includes helping to serve meals)

If you are interested in helping, please e-mail the rector of St. Mark’s [padrewarren@stmarkshampton.org](mailto:padrewarren@stmarkshampton.org)

## Night’s Welcome

Our week for hosting Night’s Welcome is February 9th through February 16th. For those not familiar with this Outreach mission, we host the homeless for dinner, spending the night in a warm & secure environment, and serve breakfast. We welcome seasoned volunteers and are also looking for new volunteers with able hands, minds, and bodies. A signup sheet is in the parish hall. Let's get those spaces filled quickly. Any questions, please get in touch with Bettyrene Pope. You may call (757-879-4625) or email [johnp4645@aol.com](mailto:johnp4645@aol.com).

**Angel Tree for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities:** We have a tree listing names of adults with intellectual disabilities who live in group homes. Most of these individuals do not have any family. Please consider taking a name from the small angel tree in the parish hall starting November 25th, buying at least one present for that name, wrapping it and returning it (with the name you took and the item you purchased checked) on the package, by December 16th to the same tree in the parish hall. Carol Winarski and I will collect and deliver the packages weekly to Jane Hobbs who runs this ministry. Greta Harrison



### **Christmas Poinsettias & Altar Decorations:**

If you would like to make a donation for Christmas poinsettias and altar decorations, please fill out the form below. You may return the form and your check to the church office or place in the offering plate. The memorials and thanksgivings will be printed in the Christmastide bulletins, as well as the January 2018 Epistle Newsletter.

Deadline for printing in the bulletins: Monday, December 17th

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Christmas Poinsettias & Altar Decorations

I wish to give this in Memory/Honor of (Specify dedication type):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



### **ADVENT YOGA SATURDAY**

On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we will have a special Advent Yoga program from 9-12. Lisa Drago is a trained spiritual director and certified yoga instructor. She will lead us in yoga and meditation to get us in the Advent spirit. Advent tells us to slow down and prepare. This morning session will give you time to prepare your heart for the coming of the Christ child. We will have a small lunch afterwards. Please contact the church office if you are interested. We need to know ahead of time how many people to prepare for. Childcare is available, please tell us when you RSVP if you will be using the childcare services. In order to keep this offering free, we are asking people to bring something to share for lunch (Soup, salad or bread). Please contact the church office or Samantha if you can bring something.



**Morning Prayer During Advent** on Wednesdays at **9am** on **December 5th, 12th, and 19th** in the chapel.



**St. Nicholas Visits St. John's:** On Sunday, December 9th St. Nicholas will visit during the 10:30 am service. We encourage children of all ages to come and worship and visit with St. Nicholas.

## Service of Lessons & Carols

The St. Johns Choir and instrumentalists will offer a service of Lessons and Carols on Sunday **December 16 at 4:00 pm** at the church. The lessons from the Old Testament promising a new covenant with God, the coming of the Messiah together with New Testament lessons of the Angel Gabriel's visit and the birth of the Jesus in Bethlehem will be heard. Anthems by Benjamin Britten, Paul Manz, and Serge Rachmaninoff will be interspersed with carols of the season. Join us for this festive anticipation of the coming of the Savior. All are welcome. A holiday reception follows the concert.

Christmas is a joyful holiday for many, but a difficult time for others. The "Longest Night" service is held near the longest night of the year, which always falls 4 days before Christmas. It is a time to reflect and pray, recognizing the holiness of the season but also the feelings of grief that sometimes come with a holidays oriented around family. It will take the place of our regular Taize service on **December 21st at 7pm.**

## The Longest Night Service



Join us on Sunday, **December 23rd** after the 10:30am service to bring Christmas to our sanctuary by helping us decorate.

## Christmas Eve Services on Saturday, December 24th:

**5pm Family Service (Carols begin at 4:45pm)** with Holy Eucharist and presenting *The First Christmas: A Children's Traditional Christmas Pageant* featuring St. John's Youth, Young Disciples and Atrium classes.

This is the greatest story ever told; the story of the night Jesus Christ was born and how his birth brought hope and joy to the world. If your child is interested in participating, please contact Shannon Olson at [jjawsolson@aol.com](mailto:jjawsolson@aol.com).



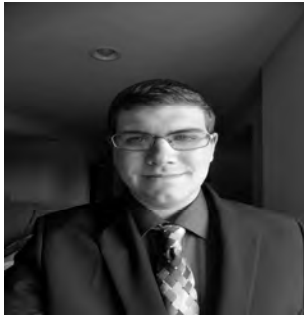
**10pm Traditional Service (Carols begin at 9:30pm)** with Holy Eucharist and choir. The service concludes with traditional lighting of the candles and singing Silent Night.

**Christmas Day Service** and Holy Eucharist at **9:15am** on Tuesday, **December 25th.**

**First Sunday After Christmas** there will be one service on **December 30th at 9:15am.** Don't forget, Christmas lasts for 12 days!

## Welcome to St. John's

Rules around church membership can be a little nebulous. The official way to join is to transfer your "letter" to St. John's. However, if you attend and we have all your information, we could consider you a member. That said, we would like to welcome the following people who have formalized their membership. If you are not sure whether you are a member and want to ensure you are, feel free to call the church office and inquire.



**Ryan Houdashelt**

**Michael & Wendy Connly**



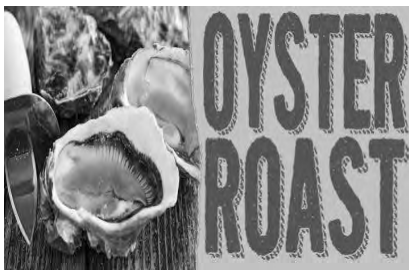
### **Baptism:**

**November 4, 2018**

**Sarah Christina Keene**



**Welcome to the Household of God!**



**Mark your calendar...** St. John's Men's Group will hold the annual St. John's Church Oyster Roast on Saturday, January 19, 2019, from 4-6 pm in the parish house parking lot. There will be oysters, clam chowder, hush puppies, slaw, and baked beans, with

hot dogs for the non-seafood eaters. Bring your family and invite your friends and neighbors to join us for good food and great fellowship! —Frank Edgar, Jr.

### **December Birthdays**

3	Sarah Messersmith
3	August Olson
4	Bill Brown
6	David Bishop
7	Jill Shoemaker
8	Peggy Hayes Alligood
8	Russell Smith
10	Charlotte Weber
10	Bill Kirkland, Jr
11	Ann Templeman
12	Jan Peters
13	Adelyn Devlin
14	William Melgaard
17	Carrie Quinn
18	Carol Giles
21	Will Olson
21	Donavan Devlin
21	Morgan Devlin
22	Bonnie Jones
25	Charlie Edmonson
26	Jamie Shoemaker
26	Martha Barrett
29	Billie Jeffries
29	Mark Riley
29	Parker Moore
30	Mary Pat Croft
31	Gwen Carr
31	Joseph Strup

### **December Anniversaries**

2	Matthew & Missy Austin
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**Please contact the office  
if we have missed your  
birthday or anniversary:**

**757-722-2567**

**[office@stjohnshampton.org](mailto:office@stjohnshampton.org)**



**St. John's Episcopal Church**  
100 West Queens Way  
Hampton VA 23669  
(757) 722-2567  
office@stjohnshampton.org

## St. John's Staff



**The Rev. Samantha Vincent– Alexander, Rector**

sjrector@stjohnshampton.org

**The Rev. Mark Riley, Assistant Rector**

mark@stjohnshampton.org

**Deborah Carr, Organist and Music Director**

music@stjohnshampton.org

**Jane Price, Lay Pastoral Associate**

janeprice30@aol.com

**Shannon Olson, Christian Formation Coordinator**

formation@stjohnshampton.org

**Jenn Devlin, Parish Administrator**

office@stjohnshampton.org

**Darlene Jackson, Communications Assistant**

communications@stjohnshampton.org

**Nathan Houser, Sexton**

## Vestry

Bill Brown (2018)  
Whiting Chisman, Jr. (2019)  
Patrick Dennehey (2019)  
Duncan Garnett (2018)  
Bob Harper (2019)  
Rosemary Hobart (2018)  
Charlie Edmonson (2018)  
Stephen Rous (2020)  
Ruth Simmons (2020)

## Office Hours

Monday through Friday  
9am-4pm

*In case of Pastoral Emergency,  
please call 757-504-3504.*

## Sunday Worship

8:00am Holy Eucharist  
9:15am Christian Formation  
10:30am Holy Eucharist  
Nursery Provided  
for Christian Formation  
and for the 10:30am service.