

# The Episcopaper – January 2012



## St. John's Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Mark J. Miller, Rector

### Year-Round Schedule:

Sundays: 8am and 9:45am

Thursdays: 10am and 5pm

### Single Service

January 22 @ 9:15 am

## From the Rector:

New Year's Day comes after Christmas. It always points us back to work!

That is liturgical, if I can say so. Every feast, every celebration of the gathered church leads to transition. Awareness of the mystery of God with us leads to the exhortation: *"Back outside, everybody; back to the world and be there what we become in here!"*

I was to give the "benediction" at the end of the Thanksgiving service for the churches of Snohomish. It was Communion, and so when the time came, I said to myself, "You were a deacon too; so give the Dismissal!" So I stole an idea and said to them from the back of the church, *"Get up, get out, get lost!"*

As we learn from the mystery of Christmas, God is with us. And it is to know that we are "with" each other, not only in our affinities and relations, but just as human beings. As I have tried to put it, God created us to be persons in society.

You could look at Christian life and growth as becoming such persons, becoming ones who are with others as God has come to be with us.

With others doesn't mean always "sociability" or extraversion. It does not always mean direct involvement with lots of peoples. That is a matter of the gifts we have been given. But a *person* finds life and liberty not in freedom from others and from the obligations to be with them but rather in freely accepting God's grace to us, and that same grace for all others, and seeing them accordingly. "No man is an Island" the Anglican mystic preacher John Donne said. As we are again at work, and as we are this year especially citizens and voters in our state and our country, we each can never forget to be involved with the rest of our neighbors, just as a human being, just as one in the image of the society of God. Ties to society are not options, but obligations, or better, just part of being human. Such is the vision of our baptismal faith.

~Fr. Mark

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### Looking Forward:

- ❖ Epiphany Potluck Dinner Planned
- ❖ Gather at the River
- ❖ Baptism of the Lord/Blessing of Water
  - Earth Ministry Award
- ❖ Family Game Night Scheduled
- ❖ Annual Meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Committee Reports Due
- ❖ "Wine Into Wishes" Fundraiser Planned
- ❖ Wednesday Night Supper/Movie Series
- ❖ Knitting Group Forms
- ❖ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Planned
- ❖ Ash Wednesday Services Scheduled
- ❖ College of Congregational Development:  
Family Interviews to Start

### Reflecting Back:

- ❖ Reaching In/Reaching Out – Christmas Giving Recap
  - ❖ ECW Holiday Tea Report
  - ❖ Advent Taizé Services & Christmas Worship Wrap-up
  - ❖ Christmas Pageant – The Annual Miracle
  - ❖ Potato Harvest at the Farm
  - ❖ Vestry Report
- Plus:**
- ❖ Many Thanks to...
    - Altar Guild
    - Choir
    - Cookie Bakers
  - ❖ January & February Calendars

## Epiphany Potluck Dinner – Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm



The Epiphany Potluck Dinner is Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 5 pm, to celebrate the conclusion of the Christmas season. As in past years, we will have three special Wise Men present their gifts, sing songs, and share an Epiphany cake, with its tokens inside.

New this year: all children present have the opportunity to be part of a “living nativity” and dress in costume. The potluck fare will be a “tour” of the St. John’s cookbook and new supplement. Please come, and bring a dish to share (serving 8+). Nursery care is available.

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## Gather at the River – Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am

In preparation for the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan (January 8<sup>th</sup>), parishioners are encouraged to gather at St. John’s on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am, with water containers in hand. The group will walk together to the Snohomish River and collect water to carry back to the Parish Hall, where it will be blessed, purified, and then used on Sunday morning at the Eucharist. All ages are welcome.



## Baptism of the Lord/Blessing of Water – January 8<sup>th</sup>; Family Service at 9:45 am

Our celebration of the Baptism of the Lord will be Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> at both services. The 9:45 am service will be a Family Service. We will bless water gathered from the Snohomish River, and be joined by Jessie Dye, Outreach Director, and Betsy Cannon, Outreach Coordinator of Earth Ministry, who will present a “Greening Congregation” banner to St. John’s Creation Stewards. The Greening Congregations Program supports our congregation as we envision and celebrate creation-care efforts in worship, education, building and grounds, individual stewardship and community outreach and faithful advocacy. See more information at <http://www.stjohnsnohomish.org/creationstewards> or the Earth Ministry website <http://earthministry.org/programs/greening-congregations>.

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## Family Game Night Scheduled – Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7 pm

Family fun ahead – games for all ages in the Parish Hall on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, beginning at 7 pm. Bring your family and friends, your favorite game, and a snack or beverage to share. Stay tuned for more details!



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## Annual Meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> following 9:15 am Single Service

St. John’s Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>. There will be one service that day – beginning at 9:15 am, and the Annual Meeting follows at 10:30 am, where we discuss the business of the church and elect new Vestry members. There will be Nursery care available and a program for youth.

Reminder to Committees: those who have been asked to submit written reports to the office – the reports are due January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## "Wine into Wishes" Fundraiser Planned



Mark your calendars: This year's wine tasting fundraiser will be on Saturday, February 4, 2012, from 6:30 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

This festive fundraiser is an opportunity to taste several local wines, eat light appetizers and support the needs of our local

community. Tickets will be \$20/person and will be available after coffee hour during the month of January. They can also be purchased from any member of the Outreach Committee, Sarah Jusko, or Laurie Gray.

Volunteers are needed for set up, clean up, bring light appetizers, and act as wine stewards. Contact Sarah or Laurie for details.

Like last year, this fun event supports one of the many programs supported by the Outreach Committee. The wine tasting event this year will support the Everett Gospel Mission Women and Children's Shelter to purchase and outfit additional housing space for their ever-expanding clients' needs.

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## Wednesday Night Soup Supper & Movie Series – February 8, 15, & 29 and March 7 & 14

Plan to attend the Adult Education Committee and Creation Steward's Wednesday Night Soup Supper and Movie Series on the following evenings: February 8, 15 & 29 and March 7 & 14. Arrive at 6 pm for a simple soup supper with bread, followed by the movie series at 6:30 pm. The movie series theme is "appreciation of all of creation and what we can do to care for it." The first session begins with "Awakening the Spirit"

from the PBS series THE NATIONAL PARKS: AMERICA'S BEST IDEA by Ken Burns.

Nursery care is available, but school age children can watch the movies with their families. More details to come!!



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## Knitting Group Forms – Saturdays at 9 am



An old tradition returns to St. John's: a Knitting Group. Vestry Member Cathy Davis will be in the Memorial Room Saturday mornings from 9 am to 10 am, starting on January 7<sup>th</sup>. The group can knit for a cause or just for fun. All abilities welcome. Those who crochet are welcome as well. See Cathy with any questions.

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## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm Ash Wednesday Services Scheduled – February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Save the Date: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is Tuesday February 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 pm – look for more details in the coming weeks from the Men's Club.

See the February calendar for the Ash Wednesday service schedule.



## College of Congregational Development: Family Interviews to Start in January

A reminder to families of St. John's: The Congregational Development team decided an area to focus on for the first team project is family ministry. As reported in last month's *Episcopaper*, the first step will be to interview families and children separately about what they like and don't like about St. John's, as well as what they need and want from our parish. Two team members will attend each interview, which are to begin in January.

After collecting information from families, the team will move to the next stage of developing a strong family ministry which we hope will lead to a strong youth ministry. Your team members are: Father Mark, Dottie Nelson, Mary Nilsen, Ann Sage, Gerry Vandenberg, Phil Sevenants, and Eric Fritch. Please see one of them if you have any questions about this project.



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## Reaching In/Reaching Out – Christmas Giving Recap

St. John's parishioners generously shared this Christmas season in many ways with our community at large. Thank you to all who participated!!



A Helping Hand  
Can Change the World

- More than 65 gifts and gift cards for children up to age 16 were donated by parishioners and delivered by Steve Kenagy to Matthew House, which offers help and hope to the families of prisoners in the Washington State Department of Corrections.
- Over 600 boxes of instant oatmeal were donated by parishioners or purchased by Outreach Committee funds and delivered the Snohomish Food Bank by John Macho for Christmas food bags. A special "thank you" to Bonnie Killian for repackaging the large boxes of oatmeal.
- 20 blankets were donated to Church World Service.

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## ECW's Holiday Tea Report – The Best Tea Yet!

The Holiday Tea was very successful. While the attendance was somewhat less this year, the enthusiasm was great. The Parish Hall was beautiful and less crowded since moving the Parson's Pantry to the Memorial Room. This made serving easier and afforded space to display all the wonderful baked goods and handmade items.

Pat Chapin was the one in charge and did her usual great job in coordinating all of the activities and was at the same time the perfect hostess. Helen Tygret was again in charge of all of the food purchase and preparation. The little Girl Scouts took wonderful care of the attendees and seemed to enjoy it thoroughly.

*ECW Holiday Tea Report (Continued):*

Tea Photographs by Helen Tygret



Kitchen Crew at Work



Parson's Pantry is Ready!

The Parson's Pantry conducted a very successful operation. Freda Solie was the Chair of the group and Barbara Miars and Mary Lee Tucker were in charge of sales. The raffle for the beautiful set of dishes was won by Judy Mote and the Christmas Tree Skirt by June Gregory – who donated it back to St. John's.

The cookbook supplement was certainly a plus. The idea came from June Gregory and Sharon Hall. A small committee was formed and Judy Burrell was put in charge. The group worked very hard to have the supplement finished in time for the Tea. They did a very professional job and the cookbooks are still being sold. Terrie Peterson, our Church Secretary, helped us by securing a discount on the materials.

I can't begin to name all of the participants as I would surely miss someone. However, I feel I have to mention all of the beautiful decorations which were made by Anne Voss. Marie Iwersen provided the background music on the piano. So many people prepared the food to be served, baked wonderful treats for the Parson's Pantry, set up tables, worked in the kitchen during the Tea and cleaned up after the event. Jim & Kati Anderson worked from early morning until cleanup was complete. It all went so smoothly.

For your information, our Treasurer, Nancy McConnell, says we cleared about \$1,400 on the Tea, excluding the cookbooks. Since cookbooks and supplements were sold before, during and after the Tea, the final figures will come later.

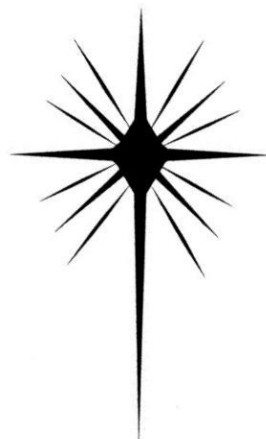
What I liked the most about the Tea was the cooperation and participation of the members of the Church. It was a wonderful outpouring of love and Christian fellowship. The community seemed to love it, too. I sincerely thank all of you. Have a wonderful New Year.

~Georgia Machotka, ECW President

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## **Advent Taizé Services & Christmas Worship Wrap-up**

Candles, darkness, and soft Advent music provided a place for peace and prayer during Advent. Attendance ranged from 15 to 28 people at each of the four Taizé prayer services in November and December. Jim Van Horn provided the organ music and many voices shared in singing.



Christmas worship services were attended by 216 people. The Christmas Eve 5 pm service was well attended, and people helped set up the Crèche and sang hymns. For the Midnight Mass, carols were sung by the Choir and congregation, and the Choir sang a lovely anthem – "Ave Maria" by Schubert. Fr. Mark prepared a special early service on Christmas Day from the 1928 Prayer Book.

## Christmas Pageant – The Annual Miracle

The annual Christmas Pageant was presented on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Directed by Freda Solie, Dottie Nelson and Mary Nilsen, with the help of the Sunday School teachers, the Sunday School children and St. John's youth presented "*The Advent Tree*". We learned about the many symbols associated with Advent and Christmas. Fun was had by all, and lots of cookies were eaten, too!

Photographs by Bill & Helen Tygret



The Angels Appear to Mary & Joseph



Narrators & Cast Sing Final Song

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## Potato Harvest at the Farm

Harvesting continued in December at Chinook Farms where we have our St. John's Garden. Eric Fritch and Jim Anderson are pictured below out at the Farm on December 10th. Eric offered to plow a few rows of potatoes if Jim could organize a work party to harvest them. Jim got six Glacier Peak High School students, a parent and the girls' 4-H teacher to come and they harvested over 800 pounds of potatoes which were delivered to the Snohomish Food Bank. The Food Bank was thrilled! The girls (only girls showed up!!) worked tirelessly and efficiently. Kati kept the water boiling for hot cocoa and cider and they served up donuts as well. It was a VERY cold and frosty morning --- especially at 8 am. They hope to organize another harvest day (or two) between now and March, if anyone is interested. No dates set yet.

Photographs by Kati Anderson



Eric prepares to plow



Harvest Underway!!

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## Vestry Report

At the December Vestry meeting, the Vestry approved purchase of one set of the books required by the Diocesan College of Congregational Development for use by our Congregational Development team, and as a resource for the parish.

Your Vestry Members are: Dottie Nelson (Senior Warden), Jud Chapin (Junior Warden), Mike Allert, Cathy Davis, Sharon Hall, Jerry Johnson, Rick Jusko, John Macho, David McConnell, Jack Norvell, Marsha Russell and Nancy Vandenberg.

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## Many thanks ...

- **Altar Guild Members** – who magically transformed the church for Christmas.
- **Choir Members** – for the lovely music performed on Christmas Eve.
- **Cookie Bakers and Helpers** – there was a great bounty of cookies that were made and delivered to our shut-ins, as well as served at the Christmas Pageant.
- from Maureen Loomis to those who supported the "Windermere Serves" annual spaghetti dinner held at St. John's on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Maureen reports that over \$5,000 was raised for the Snohomish Food Bank.