

Grapevine

St John's Episcopal Church | 705 Rayburn Ave | Ocean Springs, MS 39564

December 15, 2010

Christmas Eve Services

**5:00 PM (note time change) Carols & Holy Eucharist with
St. Cecilia Choir and Instrumental Music**

**7:30 PM Carols & Holy Eucharist
with St. John's Choir**

**10:30 PM Carols & Holy Eucharist with
Youth Symphony**

Christmas Day Service

11:15 AM Holy Eucharist and Carols

Sunday, December 26

7:30 AM Holy Eucharist I

9:00 & 11:15 AM Christmas Lessons and Carols



Decorating or "Greening of the Church"

Sunday, December 19, after the 11:15 AM service we will be hanging the Christmas greenery in the church. We need volunteers who are not afraid of heights – and others willing to assist them. It is always a time of great fellowship – sandwiches and drinks will be served for our workers. Please come and join the fun!

Thanks to all those who gave so generously to make this greenery possible again this year. The response has been a beautiful expression of how much it means to us to see St. John's beautifully decorated at Christmas.

The Tradition of the Red Doors...There is a long tradition in the Episcopal Church to paint the doors of the church red. Here are some of the reasons cited:

- 1) It symbolizes the shedding of the blood of Christ and the martyrs as in the Passover lamb's blood story from the book of Exodus.
- 2) To remind us that Christ's blood opens the door to salvation to us.
- 3) To identify the Episcopal Churches among others.
- 4) That the church is a place of sanctuary from the shedding of blood, and also as a sign of WELCOME to all people to this church home.

Whatever reason one embraces, it signals to all the presence of God and God's eternal love at St. John's Episcopal Church!

Holiday Raffle Going on Now

St. John's is raffling a weeklong stay at a condo in Orlando, Florida (the date of usage is negotiable based on availability and the dates acceptable to the winner)! Previous winners of this raffle attest to the desirability of the location to Disney World and other attractions in central Florida. It's a place to have a lot of fun and the proceeds benefit the church. Tickets are on sale now for \$10 per ticket or 3 for \$25. The

drawing will take place after the 11:15 AM service on January 2.

EYC NEWS!!! There will be a Christmas Party at the home of Julia Weaver and Robert Wiygul this Sunday, December 19, 4:00 PM. We look forward to seeing all of you there.



- Congratulations to Tripp Clearman, delegate and Nathalie Gault, alternate, who will represent the Coast Convocation Youth at Annual Diocesan Council in Jackson.
- Proceeds from our babysitting will be used to purchase gifts for Angel Tree families at the Salvation Army.

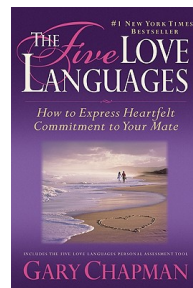
Wonderful Wednesdays

Come for services at 5:30 PM and stay for dinner and a short program. Following is our schedule for the remainder of December: December 15 - "An Advent Conspiracy"; December 22 - "Advent Hymns/Christmas Carol Singalong" and on December 29 there will be Eucharist with Baptism and no dinner or program.

Young Adult Group Reads 5 Love Letters

St. John's Young Adults with Children Group will meet on Wednesday, January 5, at 6:30 PM following the Wonderful Wednesday meal in the Kindness Room on the second floor of the parish hall. The group is reading Chapman's 5 Love Languages.

For information about group activities call Marsha Ackerman at 617-842-2656.



Saints & Sinners' Men's Group News

Congratulations to Pete Jones, Nathan LeBlanc and Ed Wise who were re-elected to their offices of president, vice-president and treasurer respectively at the December meeting of the group. The Saints and Sinners' Men's Group meets the second Thursday of each month for dinner and fellowship. The group made a donation to the Building Fund in the amount of \$1,000. They will meet next on January 13 with spouses or significant others at Anthony's Under the Oaks for the installation of officers.

St. John's Religious Book Group

The Group will meet on Thursday, January 27 at St. John's Parish Hall Great Room at 6:00 PM. They are reading *Siddharta* by Herman Hesse, a fictionalized story of the Buddha. Copies of the book are available in the Church Office. Everyone is welcomed to the group. Babysitting will be available with advance notice to the Church Office.

Parish Directory Photographs

Thanks to everyone for their support for the Parish Directory Photographs. We made 140 photos for the new directory and St. John's received \$1,758.29 from the sale of photos. If you still need photos, contact Margaret Reynolds at 365-5622 as she will do one last order in January. Special thanks to Linda for scheduling people; Betty Galliher for acting as greeter and Lee Armstrong and Charlie McKellar for showing the images, helping folks make their selection! This was a great team effort; the directories should be out soon!!!

New Year's Eve

St. John's Ultreya is sponsoring a New Year's Eve get-together in the parish hall from 6-9 PM. Bring an *hor d'oeuvre*. Drinks will be provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Baptisms will be offered at St. John's on Wednesday, December 29, Holy Innocents Day, at 5:30 PM and on Sunday, January 9, the Baptism of Jesus, at the 11:15 Am service.

St. Mary's Guild is taking orders for Christmas Cakes (\$20). Call Barbara (374-2931) or Harriet (875-2713) or contact the church office.

Episcopal Church Kalendars are available in the church office for \$3.00 each.

Congratulations to Doc & Dollye Nolan who celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary recently.

St. John's Preschool needs volunteers and substitute teachers - call Jean at 424-8365.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Quave and Michael Hawkins on the birth of Henry Christopher and **Congratulations** to grandparents Foley & Sheree Ranson on the birth of grandsons - Grayson Alexander Dean (parents Amie & Austin) and David Guthrie Darring (parents Jodi & Matt).

Our Sympathy to Jean Boley on the death of her husband, Frank, and to Kevin Benefield on the death of his sister, Frances Loye Kiper.

The Church Offices will be closed at Noon on December 24 and all day on December 27 and 31.