

Eagle Wings



January 2020

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VERSAILLES, KENTUCKY www.stjohnsky.com



St. John's Episcopal Church
210 North Main Street
Versailles, KY 40383
(859) 873-3481
www.StJohnsKy.com

DEADLINE for Eagle Wings

February 2020 Issue
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Submission of articles or photos
by email can be submitted to
StJohnskynews@gmail.com.

There are several ways to receive
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Hosea Hall. Printed copies are
black and white only.

Articles, news or photos for *Wood-
ford Sun* should be placed in the
Eagle Wings mailbox in the church
office and marked News for
Woodford Sun. If you have any
questions, please contact Jillian
Hall.

Worship Schedule

Sundays

8 am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
10 am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist*

Wednesdays, Holy Eucharist and Healing Service

5:30 pm in the Chapel*

*Nursery provided



From Rev. Dana Lockhart



Odds and Ends at the End of the Year

Dear Friends,

When this message arrives in your inbox or your mailbox, it will most likely still be Christmas. While the world around us may schedule things according to the needs of school systems and retail stores, the church maintains its own calendar. Christmas *begins* on December 25th and lasts until Epiphany on January 6th (the time in-between the two holidays being the famous 12 days of Christmas). Christmas Eve is, technically, still Advent. Reclaiming this extended Christmastide (as well as Epiphany) has been on my mind recently. With all of the activity in the parish in November and December, it is hard to fit everything in and still do the important things well. Therefore, as we plan for 2020, I want to encourage us all to make full use of the church calendar: it does not all have to happen before 11:59 pm on 12/24!

With this in mind, I am excited that the annual Daughters of the King “Diapers for Jesus” drive has been moved out of Advent and into the time after Epiphany (which, liturgically, makes good sense, as the wisemen don’t show up with gifts until January!). This year, we will be collecting diapers from January 8th (when we will celebrate Epiphany) until the Presentation of Our Lord on February 2nd. This fits well with our lectionary readings (both days are about offerings for the benefit of the infant Jesus) and allows us to extend our celebration of our Lord’s birth long past the Christmas rush.

This year, two regular activities of the parish ended up not coming together: our float in the Versailles Christmas Parade and an annual children’s pageant. On the one hand, it is good for us to take occasional sabbaticals from longstanding programs (I am of the mindset that all church programs should have expiration/reevaluation dates). On the other, both were opportunities for this parish to minister to children and engage the wider community. In the coming year, I want to start the planning for our extended Christmas season earlier, making use of the full liturgical calendar, and being sure to involve more people to help bring these programs together. Therefore, let me announce the first big event of 2021: on **January 6th, 2021 we will hold an Epiphany pageant.**

Why Epiphany and not Christmas? Well, for starters, Epiphany has been a long-neglected holiday. Re-emphasizing its importance in our parish is a worthy goal. One challenge we have at Christmas is that people travel and others host out of town guests. This makes planning programs difficult: many stalwart members are out of town or busy with family. Even a well-run

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"normal" service can be challenging at these times, as fewer hands do more work. Rather than cramming another big program into an already busy season, Epiphany might just allow us to tell the entire story (camels and wisemen included) at a time when the focus can be entirely on Jesus.

Let me close with a note of celebration: this year we added a Lessons and Carols service, which was a great success. I am grateful for Owen's leadership, for the dedication of our adult choir, for the civic leaders who served as lectors, and most especially for Cindi Clark leading the choristers. I hope that Lessons and Carols will become a regular fixture on our seasonal calendar for years to come.

Merry Christmas!

Community Dinner, Monday, December 30. St. John's volunteers prepare, serve and deliver dinner to Woodford County residents who are in need of a friendly greeting and a hot meal. If you have an hour or two to help, you will serve a great need. Preparation begins at 1 pm and deliveries begin at 4 pm. Contact Louise Jones for more information.



St. John's ECW will meet Friday, January 3, at the home of Ruthann Vandenburg. All women of the church are members and are invited to attend. Contact Jereann Crowley for more information.

Annual Parish Meeting Election Results

Elected to the Vestry for a three-year term were Patrick Hall, Ned Meekins and Ann Miller. Elected to represent St. John's at the next Diocesan Convention were Bill Clark, Ben Harper, Louise Jones and Gayle Yocum with alternates Karla Myers, Tom Canary and Becky Denton.

Diapers for Jesus!

As the magi came to baby Jesus on Epiphany bringing gifts, Daughters of the King is having a "Diapers for Jesus" drive during the season of Epiphany. We encourage everyone to bring in disposable diapers between January 6 and February 2 and place them on the front pews of the church. February 2 is the celebration of the Presentation of Jesus in the temple. Both Epiphany and the Presentation involve giving gifts. First gifts are from the Magi to the Christ Child and then gifts given to the temple in celebration of Jesus' growing up.



We will be dividing the diapers between the Food Pantry and the Health Department. Poverty level parents spend 17% of their income....per child....on disposable diapers. Why not cloth? Dirty diapers cannot be laundered at a laundromat and most poverty level families do not have washers and dryers. Please help us aid the smallest and most vulnerable members of our society. Last year we donated over 3,300 diapers in Woodford County. If you have any questions, see Mary Ann Overturf and any Daughter of the King.



St. John's Altar Guild is stretched pretty thin right now, and we need some new members. We have three different services to set up each week, and would like to have enough members so everyone only serves once a month.

It's not your grandmother's Altar Guild! You don't have to be a woman! You will be well trained before you're setting up on your own. It's a wonderful parent/child team opportunity.

As we enter a new year, and a new decade, please consider joining us in this vital ministry, setting the Lord's table for Holy Eucharist.

We look forward to hearing from YOU! Contact Vickie Duff for more information.

St. John's Bylaws: Copies of the most recent edition of the parish bylaws, reflecting amendments made in October and November, are available in the parish hall. Electronic copies can also be sent upon request to the parish office.

20 HOURS IN 2020

Recently, the Pew Research Center conducted a groundbreaking study on the state of the sermon in the American church. Realizing that thousands of churches post their sermons online, they selected a representative sample of congregations from diverse Christian traditions and gathered audio recordings of nearly 50,000 sermons posted online between April 7 and June 1, 2019. They then conducted a computational analysis to learn more about what preaching sounds like across the entire spectrum of Christianity in the United States.

Quick: what do you think the median sermon length in an American congregation is in 2019?

37 minutes! If you were to randomly choose a church to attend next Sunday, there's a 50% chance the sermon you'd hear would be over 37 minutes long. Meanwhile, the median sermon length in a "mainline" protestant congregation (Episcopal, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, etc.) is 25 minutes long. Catholics have the shortest median sermons at 14 minutes, while half of all evangelical Christian sermons go on for longer than 39 minutes.

So what about St. John's?

Well, Kathy and I looked at all of the sermons posted on the website in 2019. These included sermons delivered by me or Deacon Emily, as well as those by Canon Elise, Bishop Mark, and various supply preachers. And this is what we found: the median length of a sermon at St. John's is 13:53. On any given Sunday, there's a 50% chance the sermon at St. John's will be under 14 minutes long.



Even the "above average" sermons are comparatively short: the longest sermon of 2019 was around 22 minutes, 3 minutes shorter than the average sermon in a mainline church and a full 15 minutes shorter than the average across all denominations. With a median length of under 14 minutes, St. John's "missed out" on something in the neighborhood of 1,200 minutes time spent focused on God's word. That's 20 hours!

Is that a bad thing? Well, that depends: no one likes a dull and boring message that goes on and on. However, in those missing 1,200 minutes, there would have surely been insights and reassurances of God's love that did not occur. Likewise, there would have been lines that encouraged repentance and others that would have helped people feel more connected to God. Faith, remember, comes through hearing.

The truth is: we can't do serious Bible study in under 14 minutes. That's what I believe many of those other churches are doing: the sermon is both a homily and a lecture. That arrangement works for them, but I don't think it fits our understanding of the sermon's role in the liturgy.

Naturally, I want this parish to be known for beautiful worship, including excellent preaching. But this should not come at the cost of spending less than half the time that a typical congregation spends studying the word together. Therefore, I am asking for the adults of this parish

to “make up” that time by committing to 20 hours of intentional adult Christian faith formation in 2020.

20 hours in 2020.

To help with this, I personally commit to leading several short-term, topical bible studies this year, that will be as interesting, engaging and informative as I can make them. And I pledge to facilitate adult studies on virtually any topic which are led by others. If you want to lead a study on something that helps build up faith, come and talk to me about it.



I also want lift up the regular opportunities for adult faith formation in this parish, especially EfM, and those offered by the Daughters of the King, and the ECW, and the choir. 20 hours in 2020 also includes server training, and our head acolyte, Katherine Harper, has a vision for holding an instructed eucharist this year, and she will need co-leaders to make that happen.

Every opportunity for adult faith formation counts. It does not have to be a class; it does not have to be a study. It could be mediation, or dance, or taking a pilgrimage. It could be the Daughter’s annual quiet day. It might be deepening your faith through music, or woodworking or service... as long as it connects you with God, and God’s people, and includes time set aside with others to intentionally grow in faith.

As a New Year’s resolution, let’s commit to at least 20 hours in 2020.

-Fr Dana

PS: More information about the Pew Study can be found at:

<https://www.pewforum.org/2019/12/16/the-digital-pulpit-a-nationwide-analysis-of-online-sermons/>







St. John's members made merry music at Kroger's for the Salvation Army.



Spear Phishing Emails: Many members of St. John's continue to receive emails claiming to be sent by Fr. Dana and asking for them to purchase gift cards. If you get one of these emails, please mark it as spam and delete it. Spear phishing glean information from church websites and use it to target individual members. This is a nationwide problem with "spear phishers" targeting churches and there is little that can be done to prevent it. It is not hacking: the authentic church email addresses have not been compromised. There are also no security products or measures that can prevent someone from setting up a new email address using someone else's name. Because this is an ongoing problem, we are taking the only step we can: removing all email addresses and phone numbers from announcements, social media, and the website in the hope that this will reduce the volume of fake emails being sent to St. John's members.



Please be sure you get an updated paper copy of the directory (available in the parish hall) for contact information about upcoming programs and events. If you find that your information needs correction/ updating, please fill out the form in Hosea Hall or phone the church office.

Weekly Announcements: The weekly announcements on Thursday have run into technical problems. Periodically, we are not able to send out parish wide emails. Temporary and long-term fixes are in the works and information will be shared when available. For the time being, please be sure to check the bulletin, website, and church social media accounts for updates and announcements.

Looking ahead . . .

- Epiphany will be celebrated on Wednesday, January 8 at the 5:30 service.
- Shrove Tuesday, February 25
- Ash Wednesday, February 26
- Palm Sunday, April 5
- Easter, April 12

January 2020 Server Schedule

	5-Jan	12-Jan	19-Jan	26-Jan
	8:00	8:00	8:00	8:00
Acolyte	Jennifer Canary	Becky Denton	Leah Cardwell	Tom Canary
Lector	Tom Canary	Louise Jones	Louise Jones	Jennifer Canary
Altar Guild	Debby Edelen	Vickie Duff	Susan Carey	Debby Edelen
	10:00	10:00	10:00	10:00
Crucifer	David Clark	Quinn Cardwell	Jay Clark	Patrick Hall
Torch Bearers	Afton Skeeters & Jocelynn Duff	Willa Cardwell & Avery Gill	Avery Gill & Ina Mason	Jackson Robbins & Ian Cooper
Acolyte	Katherine Harper	Ned Meekins	Patrick Hall	Ann Richmond
Chalice	Ann Richmond	Leah Cardwell	Patty Breeze	Katherine Harper
Lectors	James Wells & Julie Skeeters	Jay Box & Teresa Range	Debby Edelen & Jay Box	Virginia Ballard & Rachelle Foley
Gift Bearers	Foley Family	Lockhart Family	Gill Family	Collingsworth Family
Ushers	Mark & Karla Myers	Larry Yocum & Sam Hawkins	John Range & Larry Yocum	Ruth Ann & Mercer Vandenburg
Altar Guild	Virginia Ballard	Vickie Duff	Julie Ross	Virginia Ballard
Flower Guild	Ann Richmond	Julie Ross	Sara Hellard	Ann Richmond
Vestry	Overturf/Foley	Meekins/Lockridge	Overturf/Harper	Ross/Meekins
Brunch	Jones/Curl	Richmond	Crowley/Foley	Gill Family
	8-Jan	15-Jan	22-Jan	29-Jan
Acolyte	Ben Harper	Ned Meekins	Ann Richmond	Katherine Harper
Altar Guild	Virginia Ballard	Vickie Duff	Virginia Ballard	Vickie Duff

St. John's 2020* Ministry Directory

Priest-in-Charge Fr. Dana Lockhart
 Senior Warden Larry Yocum
 Junior Warden..... Ken Overturf
 Clerk of the Vestry Julie Ross
 Treasurer Cory Curl
 Faith Formation Team Chair
Rev. Emily Cardwell, Deacon
 Finance Team Chair..... Mark Gill
 Buildings and Grounds Team Chair
 Ken Overturf
 Mission Team Co-Chairs.....
 Ann Miller & Georgia Lockridge
 Asst Clerk of the Vestry..... Louise Jones
 Asst Treasurer..... Rachelle Foley

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Altar Flowers Jereann Crowley
 Altar Guild Vickie Duff
 Baptisms Fr. Dana Lockhart
 Chorister Director..... Cindi Clark
 Communication..... Georgia Lockridge
 Community Dinners Louise Jones
 Daughters of the King. Mary Ann Overturf
 Eagle Wings Katherine Harper
 EfM..... Ned Meekins, Katherine Harper
 Episcopal Church Women
 Jereann Crowley
 Food Pantry Louise Jones
 Funeral Receptions ECW
 Head Acolyte Katherine Harper
 House Committee..... Ken Overturf
 Housekeeping..... Penny Thurman
 Kitchen Committee Georgia Lockridge
 Kroger Cards Gayle Box
 Lay Eucharistic Ministry Ann Richmond
 Men's Club William (Bill) Clark



Needlepoint projects..George Abbott-Maze
 Newcomers Rachelle Foley
 Outreach..... Ann Miller
 Organist/Choirmaster Owen Sammons
 Parish EmailKathy Sparrow
 Parish Life..... Mercer Vandenburg
 Parish Secretary.....Kathy Sparrow
 Pastoral Care Ministry..... Fr. Dana Lockhart
 Personnel Fr. Dana Lockhart
 Reading Club.....
 Mary Ann Overturf, Sara Meekins
 Recycling.....Ned Meekins
 Stewardship Julie Ross
 Sunday brunch Louise Jones
 Sunday School.....Clarita Murphy
 Website..... Julie Ross
 Woodford Sun.....Jillian Hall
 *Updates pending January 5 Vestry meeting.