

ST. JOHN'S  
EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH,  
COMPASS  
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**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS TO  
ALL!**



*There will be NO  
January 2018  
Newsletter. For the  
February edition,  
please submit  
materials  
to the Rector  
by January 24<sup>th</sup>.*



# The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



DECEMBER 2017

## The Delight of Waiting ... for Exuberant Joy

by the Rector

As December approached, I was again struck by how we've lost sight of celebrating Christ's Incarnation in an appropriately spiritual way. I don't mean the commercialization of the season (as offensive as that is), but something deeper. Our 'McWorld' of expectations has replaced patient waiting followed by heartfelt joyous celebration with the idolatry of instant gratification.

The ancient Western Church had a more measured rhythmic cycle for the celebration of Christ's Incarnation. At its center was Advent, the 20-plus days after the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

Through self-examination, prayer, fasting, and abstaining from public revelry, Christians prepared for the Holy Day (source of our word "holiday") by being drawn into the longing for the Messiah's coming that was shared by generations of God's faithful people.

This heightened sense of anticipation, in turn, gave way to overwhelming joy and festive celebration when Christmas Day finally came. Only *after* this, followed the 12 days of *Christmas*, climaxing on January 6 with the Epiphany, that commemorates the visit of the Magi.

But as members of the fast-food, instantaneous Internet-clicking generation, we've become so eager to get to Christmas, we bypass Advent. Christmas decorations are in the

stores the day after Halloween, and "Black Friday" is all about Christmas shopping deals—Thanksgiving Day, quickly forgotten. On November 30, I heard on *Christian radio*, "O Come, all ye faithful," and "Silent night." I turned it off. *They were spoiling my Christmas Eve!*

This mad dash toward Christmas is like opening the oven door on a soufflé before it's done—it falls flat and is ruined.

Whereas our ancestors in the faith practiced abstinence and reflection, today we're driven to pack our days with more Christmas festivities than we can endure, because Christmas has displaced Advent on our calendars.

Bypassing Advent, we've actually altered our perspective on the story of Christ's birth. Since we know so well how it ends, we want to rush headlong through the tortuous details of how God prepared a people—of how "God sent his Son ... when the time had fully come" (Galatians 4:4). Rather than enter into the agreeable sense of expectation that lies at the foundation of the Incarnation, we race to the story's glorious climax.

Instead of savoring the plaintive mood of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel," we immediately want to hear a rousing version of "Joy to the World, the Lord Is Come." In short,

we settle for a *drive-through* Christmas.

Then, by the time December 25 arrives, we wonder why we're so tired and cranky, and it doesn't "feel like Christmas." By rushing the greatest miracle the universe has ever known—God becoming man for our salvation from death and hell—we miss out on gently, quietly, preparing our hearts, minds, and souls for His coming. We forget that prophets, sages, kings—and regular people—waited *millennia* for the Messiah to appear.

Think of how you feel when a loved-one is traveling a long way to see you for Christmas. That tingling anticipation and delightful expectation are wonderfully fulfilled when you finally fall into each other's arms. The entire experience would not be nearly so powerful if we could just 'beam' ourselves wherever we wanted to go in seconds, as on Star Trek.

Okay, I confess, I hosted a "Christmas" open house for the parish on December 2. I understand—it *hard* to buck the culture. But we should at least *try* to keep a holy Advent. Sometimes, waiting is a good thing!

*Yours in Christ's love,  
Mother Nina\**

[This article was loosely inspired by theologian Stanley Grenz' meditation in *Christianity Today*, December 6, 1999.]



We will each be wearing a cross showing the Risen Christ, along with a small cloud from which pours water, signifying His baptism; the "INRI" [= "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews"] sign, recalling His sacrificial death for us at the Crucifixion; and the Holy Spirit as a dove, signifying His descent at Pentecost. In the Dove's mouth is a Communion Host, reminding us that Jesus is always present with us at every Holy Eucharist.

## Introducing: Franciscans of the Risen Christ

by Mother Nina +

In November, I resigned from the Order of the Franciscans of the Holy Cross (there's no "FHC" after my name, now), having been a life-professed member for 7 years. This difficult decision was made after much prayer, discernment, and conversation with trusted clergy, such as my spiritual director. It came in response to a strong leading from the Holy Spirit, to form a new, informal, intentionally Franciscan spiritual community in which we would all be equals, and none would have to join an order or profess vows—although we do intend to follow Jesus through living a modified Franciscan Rule of Life.

From our fellowship at St. John's, those who feel called to this new community are:

**Cynthia Boyd, Pat Owens, Suzanne Turpin,**

**and Tom Rohrer.**

In our initial discussions, one of our group expressed concern about the FHC cross depicting Jesus' dead body, "when we *know* He is alive!" After further discussion and prayer, we discerned that we are to call ourselves the **Franciscans of the Risen Christ**.

We plan to meet for a few hours monthly (if possible) in each other's homes, for a simple meal, worship & prayer, Franciscan study (or fun!), and a mission/service project. Our first gathering is Saturday, December 9.

If you believe God may be calling you to this community in light of these changes, please contact me. And kindly keep us in your prayers.

*Pax et Bonum* ("Peace & Goodness,"  
traditional Franciscans' signature)



## "Super Bowl" Sunday is Coming!

**Sunday, February 4,** millions of Americans will be "glued" to their TVs, watching the football game they've been waiting for, all year.

But churches and civic organizations across the nation will be taking part in the national "**Super Bowl of Caring**"—to fight hunger and poverty.

This grassroots movement to transform Super Bowl Sunday into the greatest day of giving to the needy began in 1990 with a simple prayer by then-seminarian Brad Smith:

"Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football

game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat."



He was inspired to build a movement to help hurt and hungry people everywhere.

Since then, more than \$100 million has been given to soup kitchens, food banks, and other charities.

**Let's do our part at St. John's Church** on that Sunday. Start by **bringing canned or**

**boxed soups, or non-perishable soup-making ingredients (dried peas, rice, noodles, etc.)** for the Octorara Area Food Cupboard in Parkesburg.

Then, let's have some fun and **bring soups to share during coffee hour**. Dust off those crock-pots and tote your favorite soup to church, to enjoy with friends.

If you'd rather not bring soup-makings, or cook soup to share, *please consider making a donation to St. John's Outreach budget, or to an organization that feeds the hungry.*



## Update on the Search for a New Church Organ

There are two dominant brands of electronic church organs on the market—Allen and Rodgers. Our organ is an Allen. It is currently serviced by Grafton Organ Company of Souderton, PA. Grafton is only permitted to perform maintenance and repairs to our organ, but not permitted to sell us an Allen organ, as the church is located in the territory of the Susquehanna Organ Company of Dallastown (York County) PA. Therefore, I have reached out to their representative, Matthew Baldwin, and am in the process of arranging to meet with him. At that time, I will be apprised of his current inventory of used and new Allen organs and will arrange for his visit to St. John's. Before he can provide pricing, he will be doing an on-site inspection to see the current set-up of speakers and electrical service. This will help determine the installation ex-

pense and he will recommend any upgrades (if needed) for the replacement organ.

I am further along in my research on Rodgers organs. The Buch Organ Company of



Ephrata is the Rodgers agent for our area. Doug Wimer is the owner and sales representative for the company (and organist/choirmaster of St. Stephen's, New Holland). He has visited St. John's Church and has worked up installation costs. I have visited the store twice and have tried both used and new instruments.

Currently, he has a used 17

-year-old model priced at \$22,000—which includes installation. The instrument seems decent but electronically dated, and I have a major concern in that the organ only comes with a 90-day warranty. New instruments have at least a 2-year warranty.

I have also tried new instruments priced from \$41,900 to \$54,000—all too complex for our needs. However, Rodgers is bringing out a new line of organs for small churches—which might be right for us. I am waiting for specifications to be made available. This new line is priced in the mid-to-upper \$20,000's. I will be following up with Mr. Wimer regarding this new line of instruments.

I am very appreciative of the fund raising for the organ to date. My thanks to all for your interest and encouragement.

Respectfully, *Rick Hacker*

*"I am very appreciative of the fund raising for the organ to date."*



### December & January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Emily Miller 12/6  
 Jennifer Baldwin 12/7  
 Elizabeth Harper 12/8  
 Gabrielle Arment 12/20  
 Matilda Harrington 12/29

Kurt & Susan Gansauer 12/19  
 Steve & Cynthia Boyd 1/13  
 Jim & Theresa Feiler 1/30

Suzanne Turpin 1/1 Bob Yarnall 1/16  
 Lilly Kirchofer 1/3 Hilda Baldwin 1/24  
 Ella Kirchofer 1/3 Nancy Miller 1/30



Anniversaries are days to celebrate  
 The love that makes your marriage great.  
 Wishing you still more dreams come true,  
 More joy, more love for both of you.

## ‘Welcome Home Sunday’ was a Great Success!

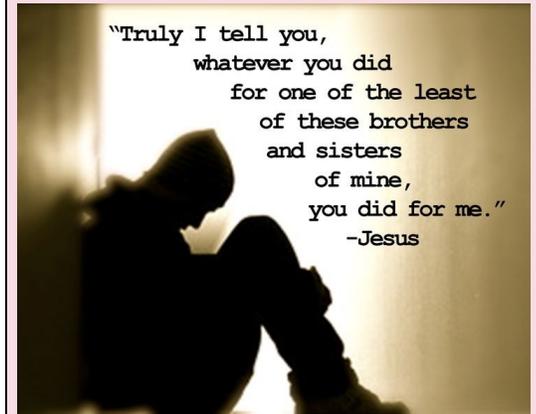
For “**Welcome Home Sunday**” on **November 5**—when we also celebrated **All Saints**—our People’s Warden, Robin Baldwin, sent out 85 invitations to former members and those who hadn’t been to church in a long time. She received 23 responses, and 21 came. Our **attendance that day was 79**, and for this special service, we used our 1766 Queen Anne-style pewter Communion set. Our Music Director hired a trumpeter to make the occasion even more festive. And after Mass, we shared a delicious potluck luncheon, for which we thank all our talented cooks that prepared the meal. Mother Nina created a PowerPoint presentation about our parish, with a special memorial section featuring our congregation’s ‘saints’ who died this past year. If you haven’t seen the video, ask her to show it to you on the new church laptop. Dawn Filetti took photos—to be seen in a future issue of *The Compass*.



## OUTREACH UPDATE

This Fall, our members did a great job of helping the needy through St. John’s Outreach ministries. Although Jesus said not to parade our good works before men, we need to thank our people and Vestry for:

- Donating \$500 and an entire barrel of toiletries to the Seamen’s Church Institute for the sailors’ ditty bags;
- Giving 19 out of the 55 Thanksgiving dinners served by Steeple-to-People;
- Purchasing 30 gift cards as Christmas gifts for the needy.



## December 2017 / January 2018 Schedule

**December 1** - Parents’ Night Out, 5 pm–9 pm  
**December 2** - Parish Open House @ Rector’s, 2 pm–4 pm  
**December 3** - **Advent 1**, The Rev. Canon Wamsley, preacher  
**December 7** - CEC Meets at St. John’s, 10:30 am  
**December 9** - Franciscans of the Risen Christ, Noon–3 pm  
**December 10** - **Advent 2**; Budget Meeting after Coffee Hour  
**December 13** - Advent Eucharist, Tel Hai Chapel, 1:30 pm  
**December 16** - Taizé-style Worship, 7 pm  
**December 17** - **Advent 3**, Youth pageant & song; potluck Christmas dinner after Mass  
**December 19** - **Vestry Meeting**, 7 pm  
**December 24** - **Advent 4**, 10:30 am  
 - **The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ** at 7 pm, with pre-service music by the choir, organ and piano solos, and congregational singing, **starting at 6:30 pm**  
**December 25–28** - Rector’s vacation days  
**December 31** - **First Sunday after Christmas**, Service of Lessons & Carols, 10:30 am

**January 7** - **Epiphany Sunday**, 10:30 am  
**January 10** - **Holy Eucharist**, Tel Hai Chapel, 1:30 pm  
**January 14** - **Epiphany 2; ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**; *all reports due to the Rector on or before January 10*; potluck meal after Mass.  
**January 16** - **Vestry Meeting**, 7 pm  
**January 24** - Deadline for February *Compass* submissions



## The What, Why, and When of Liturgical Colors *by the Rector*

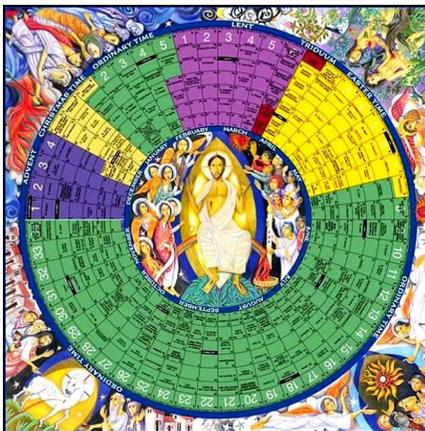
Color plays a vital role in the world in which we live. A powerful form of communication, color is irreplaceable. Red means “stop” and green means “go.” Color can irritate or soothe your eyes, raise or lower blood pressure, even suppress appetite.

As we embark upon a new church year, you may be wondering why and when we change the colors of our paraments and vestments. The Episcopal Church takes part in the ancient Christian tradition of following a set rhythm for our worship and church year, and the Church uses many symbols as a way to tell our faith story. One such symbol is the color of our altar hangings and priest’s vestments, which is used to identify the different seasons in the church, as annually we follow the story of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection.

**Purple** represents **penitence or expectation**, and is used by many churches during **Advent**—the last season to be officially added to the Church calendar around 600 AD. It was made the first season of the liturgical year because it begins the story of Christ on earth. Purple is used during Lent, which reflects Jesus’ 40 days of testing in the wilderness after His

baptism.

At St. John’s, we use **Blue** during **Advent**, drawing upon an ancient Anglican tradition, in which blue symbolized **hope**—the hope that is ours, of Christ’s coming.



On the 4th Sundays of both Advent and Lent, **Rose** vestments are worn as a sign of our joy that we have almost reached the completion of our preparations for Christmas or Easter.

**Black** is often referred to as the absence of color and signifies death and mourning in many cultures. As such, **Good Friday** is marked by black vestments and drapery on the crosses. The church is stripped of all decorations and usual hangings, in observance of the three days when Christ was in the tomb.

**White and Gold** signify resurrection, purity, and truth. These are the liturgical colors for the seasons of **Christmas** and **Easter**, and are also used at **baptisms, marriages, funerals**, some saints’ days, and on **All Saints’ Day**.

**Red** symbolizes fire, shed blood, martyrdom, and the Holy Spirit. As such, it is used as the liturgical color for **Palm Sunday** (the beginning of Jesus’ “Passion” or suffering); **Pentecost**; **Confirmations** and **Ordinations**; as well as certain feast days of martyred saints.

**Green** represents the green of God’s earth and refers to the growth of the spirit of God within us. It is used during **Epiphany** and the **Season After Pentecost**. Epiphany is the third season of the church year, and marks the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. The use of green is a response to Christ’s coming at Christmas (because we are growing in faith now that He has been revealed), and is later used in summer/fall, when the salvation story is re-capped from the preceding seasons.

We keep track of these liturgical colors with a calendar published by The Episcopal Church that shows when each color is to be used—based on the church year and any major or minor feast days. I hope you will enjoy the seasonal beauty of these colors.

*Blessings, Mother Nina\**

[This article is the second in a series on “Why do we do what we do?” Many thanks to David Reeve, *Vergers at All Saints’*, Chevy Chase, MD (my home parish), for his September 2017, “Full Circle” article from which this was adapted.]

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**STAFF, WARDENS, and VESTRY**

The Rev. Dr. Nina George-Hacker—Rector  
 Suzanne Turpin—Administrative Assistant  
 Richard Hacker—Organist / Choir Director  
 Reid Heeren—Rector's Warden  
 Robin Baldwin—People's Warden  
 Jenny Landis—Treasurer  
 Kaye Lee—Clerk of the Vestry  
 Steve Boyd—Property Manager  
 Nancy Miller—Christian Education  
 Jen Hoskins—Outreach  
 Glenn Martin—Evangelism & New Members  
 Bob Yarnall—Social Activities

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*We welcome all persons searching  
 for spiritual guidance and wholeness  
 in our broken world, as together  
 we seek to serve others  
 in the Name of Jesus Christ.*



<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnscompass/>

**“Come and See!”**

**December Service Schedule**



DATE	First Lesson, Psalm, & Prayers	Second Lesson & Eucharistic Minister	Acolyte	Crucifer	Greeters	Coffee Hour Host
<b>December 3</b> <b>Advent 1</b> The Rev. Canon Shawn Wamsley, Preaching	Kurt Gansauer	Robin Baldwin	Hank Fant	Linda Zynn	Howard & Kaye Lee	<i>Potluck Luncheon for Guest Preacher</i>
<b>December 10</b> <b>Advent 2</b>	Sue Gansauer	Linda Zynn	Tom Rohrer	Glenn Martin	Joanne Cipollini & Helen Esbenshade	
<b>December 17</b> <b>Advent 3</b> Youth Service/Pageant	Tina Zurcher	Cynthia Boyd	Pat Owens	Glenn Martin	Ron & Joyce Kelly	<i>Potluck Christmas Dinner after Mass</i>
<b>December 24</b> <b>10:30 am</b> <b>ADVENT 4</b>	Mary Lou Weaver	Tom Rohrer	Hank Fant	Pat Owens	Paul & Mary Lou Weaver	
<b>December 24</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>Christmas Eve</b>	Sharon Fremont	Robin Baldwin	Linda Zynn	Pat Owens	Selena Baldwin Ron Zynn	
<b>December 31</b> <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>	<b>READERS</b> Kurt & Susan Gansauer, Laura Armstrong, Linda Zynn, Cynthia Boyd, Tom Rohrer, Pat Owens	Cynthia Boyd	Tom Rohrer	Glenn Martin	Fran Gilfillan Steve Boyd	Laura Armstrong
<b>THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE THIS MONTH</b>	<b>Altar Guild</b> Nancy Miller Debbie Martin	<b>Offering</b> Bob Yarnall Steve Boyd Nancy Miller Reid Heeren	<b>Card Ministry</b> Laura Armstrong			<b>NO Lunch Bunch in December</b>