

The Compass

... Pointing People toward Christ



St. John's Episcopal Church
1520 West King's Highway
Gap PA 17527
717-442-4302

stjohnscompass@gmail.com
www.saintjohnscompass.org
www.facebook.com/stjohnscompass



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If you're anything like me, you don't like waiting—in a line, on the phone, in traffic, you-name-it. Our society as a whole seems to be getting more impatient. Fast food is a staple, we speed-dial our calls, and demand a lightning-quick Internet.

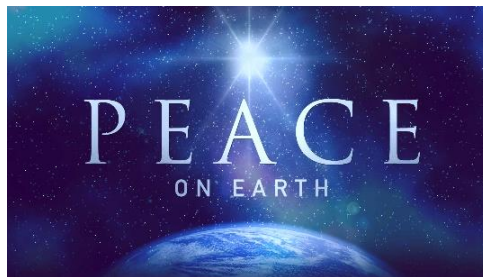
We find it impossible to grasp that the people of Israel had been waiting *thousands of years* for their promised Messiah. And we've already had twenty centuries of waiting for Him to return. So at this point, most of us simply forget about waiting for Jesus.

Or, if we're not impatient, and haven't forgotten that He promised to come to us again, we're skeptical about His first coming. We don't so much doubt that Jesus came to earth, but we have trouble with the angels' announcement that His birth would mean "peace on earth, goodwill toward men."

The headlines we read and the news we consume fill our minds and hearts with everything *but* peace. Every time we turn around, we hear of mass

shootings; devastating natural disasters; opioid overdoses and tragic deaths; human trafficking; people brutalizing one another in unspeakable ways; and unconscionable abuse in the Church. Peace? *Hah!*

Oh, but Jesus Christ did come to give us peace—not in the world (or even with each other), but with *God*. If we had remained trapped for eternity in our sins, we would never be at peace with God.



Yet through Christ's sacrificial death for our sins, and His merciful forgiveness, we are reconciled with God the Father. Jesus gives us the gift of peace with God in this life and eternity with Him in the next.

Although, like so many pageant contestants, we may plead, "I just want world peace," we can't fix this evil world—or the Creation—that is broken by sin.

What we *can* do is enter into a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, so that *we* can be at peace with God. Then, the peace that comes from being loved and forgiven *does* extend into our relationships with others.

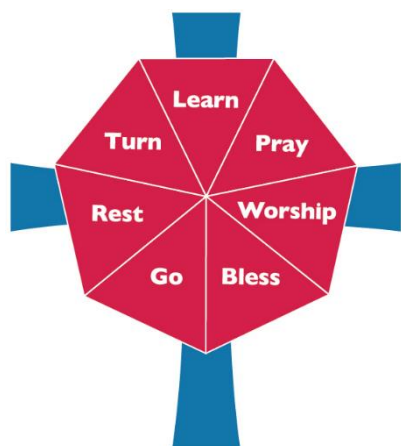
And by taking one step at a time—by doing the next right thing—we *can* make a difference in the world. For we are **Christ's voice, hands, feet and body** until He comes again. No matter how long that takes (*it may be* sooner than we think!), we are called to do His works of mercy, healing, kindness, and justice, until His return.

I don't like waiting for anything, and am impatient for Jesus to return. I want Him to fix everything, to take away the pain and suffering; end the hatred, violence, and war; punish evil due; calm the storms and heal the Creation. But until then, He asks that I—and all of us—help to bring His peaceable Kingdom to earth through loving others as He has loved us.

This Christmas, may you experience Christ's peace, love, and joy.

*Yours in His love and service,
Mother Nina +*

THE WAY OF LOVE



THE WAY OF LOVE
Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

The Presiding Bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, continues to preach **love as the paramount virtue and mission of a Christian's life**. To help us to live more like Jesus, he offers us **"Seven Practices for a Jesus-Centered Life"**:

- **Turn** – Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus;
- **Learn** – Reflect daily on Scripture; the life & teachings of Jesus;
- **Pray** – Spend time with God in prayer daily;
- **Worship** – Gather in community to worship weekly;
- **Bless** – Share your faith and find ways to serve others;
- **Go** – Move beyond your comfort zone to witness to God's love, in words and actions;
- **Rest** – Dedicate time for restoration and wholeness.

During Advent we're offering **pocket cards** with all this information **for each member of St. John's Church**. *Take one, and try it!*

Join us for an **Advent Taizé-style service of Worship and Prayer** on **Saturday, December 15 at 7:00 pm**



This informal, candlelit service (without a sermon, offering, or Eucharist) includes inspirational Scripture readings, easy-to-sing uplifting chants, prayer, and peaceful, meditative silence.

It's the perfect opportunity to invite an unchurched friend or neighbor—and to decompress from holiday stress!



CHURCH WORKDAY

DECEMBER 8
from 9 AM TO NOON

Come for an hour or two to help tidy up the church yard (weather permitting), or to organize, clean, straighten, polish, etc. things inside. Many hands make light work, and sandwiches & drinks will be provided.



... will not meet again until spring, because of holidays and winter weather. See Terri Fant if you'd like to host a Lunch Bunch in 2019.



The parish of St. John's, Compass will hold our **Annual Meeting** on **Sunday, January 22, 2019** after Mass. **All baptized members are encouraged to attend.**

After sharing a potluck luncheon, we will hear ministry reports from 2018; approve the 2019 budget; and elect new Vestry members and lay deputies to Convention.

Anyone interested in serving on the Vestry, please see **Hank Fant, Sharon Fremont, or the Rector**. **We still need 3 more people to serve.**



Prayerfully discerning that our call is to support local ministries exclusively, in November the Outreach Committee approved donations totaling \$3,500 (out of a balance of \$4,198.90 as of 10/31/18), to the following charitable organizations:

- † Good Samaritan Services - \$500
- † City Gates, Coatesville - \$500
- † Parkesburg Point - \$500
- † Steeple to People - \$500
- † Octorara Area Food Cupboard - \$500
- † Good Works - \$500
- † Honey Brook Food Pantry - \$500

We have planned the following schedule for outreach ministries throughout 2019:



FEBRUARY - Sunday, February 3, **Souper Bowl [of Caring] Sunday**: For coffee hour, make various soups to share, and bring canned soup and non-perishable soup-making ingredients to donate to the Honey Brook Food Pantry.



Friday, February 14, a **Valentine's Day Pasta Night** (time, TBA). We'll have a variety of pastas, salad, and bread to

enjoy and some fun games to play. Those attending are asked to bring non-perishable pastas and sauces to donate to the **Honey Brook Food Pantry**.

MARCH - Good Samaritan Services hosts a **Garden Luncheon** at the Desmond Hotel in Malvern. We'll inform everyone and hopefully have a group from St. John's attend.

APRIL - Second Annual **Ladies' Tea**. The collection would benefit Good Samaritan Services.



MAY - **Mother's Day Collection** for Good Samaritan Services. We will find out about their needs and let the congregation know.

JUNE, JULY & EARLY AUGUST - **Vacation Bible School, June 22** - when the needs are determined, the children will be invited to bring items for the **Octorara Area Food Cupboard**. We'll also ask the congregation to donate food and/or school supplies during the summer.

SEPTEMBER - We will look into having another **"Blingo!"** day to benefit St. John's Outreach budget.

NOVEMBER - We will collect **Thanksgiving Dinners** for **Steeple to People** and deliver them the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Once again, the congregation will be invited to donate **\$25.00 Gift cards for Mothers for Christmas**, to be given to Good Samaritan Services.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - We'll continue **collecting eyeglasses** for the **Lions Club**, and **St. John's Card Ministry** will continue to be supported by Outreach.





DECEMBER

- Emily Miller 12/6
- Jennifer Baldwin 12/7
- Elizabeth Harper 12/8
- Matilda Harrington 12/29
- ♥ Kurt & Susan Gansauer 12/29

JANUARY

- Suzanne Turpin 1/1
- Steve Boyd 1/3
- Bob Yarnall 1/16
- Hilda Baldwin 1/24
- Nancy Miller 1/30
- ♥ Steve & Cynthia Boyd 1/13

FEBRUARY

- Mary Lou Weaver 2/1
- Faye Oberholser 2/2
- Steven Armstrong 2/4
- Corey Baldwin 2/7
- Helen Esbenshade 2/13
- Glenn Martin 2/14
- Sabra Grimes 2/18
- Bo Grimes 2/20
- John Oberholser 2/21
- Tracey Rohrer 2/23
- Hank Fant 2/25
- ♥ Ned & Jennifer Baldwin 2/26

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the Church Office.



We are delighted that **Samuel Butler “Bo” Grimes, III** and his wife **Sabra** have decided to make their church

home at St. John’s. They come to us from the Baltimore, Maryland area, where Bo taught at the private Gilman School for boys for 49 years. Sabra was formerly a teacher at the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore. Her interests include music, singing, and ceramics. The Grimes live at the Tel Hai Retirement Community and have two daughters, Letitia and Margaret. Their home parish is Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Baltimore. We are blessed that Bo has signed up to serve as a Crucifer, Acolyte, Lector, and Greeter in 2019, and Sabra volunteered for the Prayer Chain and History/Archives.

Elizabeth (“Elsbeth”) Zaayenga is retired from teaching elementary school and lives at Tel Hai. She comes to us from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in West Chester. Born in Scotland, she was formerly a Canadian citizen, and gives credit to the Girl Scouts for strongly influencing her values (“to serve God and my country, to help people at all times.”) In the 1990’s Elsbeth served as a lay chaplain with Episcopal Community Services, and at St. John’s, has signed up for Prayer Chain, Prayer Shawl ministry, and Lay Eucharistic Visitor. A widow, Elsbeth is the mother of three children, Wayne, Karyn, and Anne—who served as a missionary in Japan for 20 years. She’s a free



spirit who’s flown a hot air balloon, ridden on the back of a motorcycle, and jumped from a plane!

St. John's Gets a New Organ

On November 27, 2018, the Buch Organ Company of Ephrata PA delivered to St.

John's Church a new **Rodgers Inspire Series 223 Organ**. It took two days to fully install, "voice," and tune.



The new organ will be blessed on Sunday, December 2, 2018, and sometime in 2019 we will host a dedicatory recital/concert.



The new organ has been placed perpendicular to the old one, for better visibility (for the organist), and for improved sound transmission.



Above: Our Organist/Choir Director, Rick Hacker, talks with Doug Wimer at Buch Organs about the Rodgers 223. The one at which he is seated is the same model as the instrument we now have, but ours was ordered in a dark walnut color to match the old choir pews and our antique altar furniture.



We wish to thank **Doug Wimer** (*at right*) of Buch Organs—who also serves as the Organist at St. Stephen's Reformed Church in New Holland PA—for ensuring that the move went smoothly, and for taking the time to carefully set up the new system.



In early November **nine members** of St. John's Church completed **Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Training** and learned how to use our **AED machine**—a portable electronic device that automatically diagnoses the life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias of ventricular fibrillation and pulseless ventricular tachycardia. It is able to treat these through defibrillation—the application of electricity which stops the arrhythmia, allowing the heart to reestablish an effective rhythm.



On December 2nd, the **First Sunday of Advent**, our paraments and vestments will change to “Sarum blue,” used during Advent in medieval England’s Salisbury Cathedral until the 16th century. Blue symbolizes peace, and is associated with trust, wisdom, faith, truth, and heaven. As such, blue is appropriate to this season in which we await the coming of Christ.

On this Sunday, our Advent Wreath is blessed, and we light the first candle for Christ our “**HOPE.**” The Choir will sing a beautiful anthem, “Christ be our Light,” by Bernadette Farrell, with guest Nathaniel Hoskins, guitar soloist, and Jennifer Hoskins playing recorder.

Although Advent is not as penitential as Lent, we are still called to forsake our sins as we await our Lord’s advent. Therefore, throughout Advent, our liturgy will begin with the Penitential Order, Rite II (BCP 351-353).

Our “Gloria” changes to Hymn 421, and because Advent is a ‘starker’ season than Christmastide, we’re introducing Taizé compositions for our service music. Unlike western melodies, Taizé is modal—as was used in the Middle Ages. This structure gives it a haunting character appropriate for our longing for Christ.

Because many in the congregation are unfamiliar with the music from our Taizé services, the **Choir only will be singing the “Sanctus” and the “Agnus Dei.”** However, the Congregation will sing Taizé “Alleluias” before and after the Gospel, and a refrain, “Wait for the Lord,” as a response to the sermon on the first 3 Sundays in Advent. On the 4th Sunday, the Choir only will sing the first verse of Hymn 673, “The first one ever, oh, ever to know,” which is about the Blessed Virgin Mary’s exemplary faith and obedience.

To assist you in your Advent devotions, we are offering **Advent Calendars**; “The Way of Love” Prayer Cards; the opportunity to serve as a **Prayer Partner**; and an “**Advent & Christmas**” booklet about all our services.



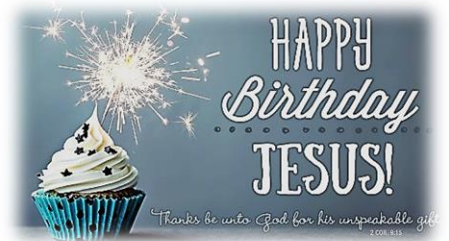
On **Christmas Eve, Monday, December 24th**, the sanctuary will be decorated beautifully with poinsettias and shining candelabras, and we’ll light the white **Christ Candle**. On this most glorious of nights, **our celebration begins with a half-hour of music, starting at 6:30 pm**—by the Choir and soloists, and includes carol singing by the congregation.

Then **our candle-lit festal Mass begins at 7 pm** with the traditional “Bidding Prayer, and the much-beloved Processional Hymn: “O Come, all ye faithful.” The blessing of the crèche (Nativity scene) follows, as we sing two verses of “What child is this.”

At this liturgy, in addition to our usual sung service music, we sing the “Sursum Corda,” the “Mystery of Faith” and “Amen”; the “Fraction Anthem” and “Dismissal.” The silver Communion set we will be using dates from 1860.

This very special evening concludes with candle-lighting as the sanctuary lights are dimmed, and we sing “Silent night, holy night.”

After Mass, all are invited to join us for a “**Birthday Party for Jesus**”—complete with cake!—in the Parish Hall. Parishioners are invited to **bring some of the cookies you’re baking at home to share with us that evening.**



CHRISTMAS DAY, Tuesday, December 25th

join us for an informal Eucharist at 10:30 am, and Sunday December 30th for a Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at 10:30 am, modeled on that of King’s College, Cambridge, England.