

Calendar

<u>Sunday</u> 9:00 a.m. 9:40 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	<u>December 4th</u> Morning Worship Coffee and doughnuts in FH Morning Worship Lucia Rehearsal Augusta District Training, Harlem UMC
<u>Monday</u> 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	<u>December 5th</u> Kindermusik Prayer Group Lucia Performance, First Baptist Church Christmas Party
<u>Tuesday</u> 12:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<u>December 6th</u> Brown Bag Bible Study on Grace Choir Performs Lessons & Carols, Sacred Heart
<u>Wednesday</u> 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<u>December 7th</u> Children's Choirs Wednesday Night Supper Adult Program, B2B Kids, UMYF Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<u>Friday</u> 9:00-12:00 p.m.	<u>December 9th</u> Homeschool Music Classes
<u>Sunday</u> 9:40 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 3:00 p.m.	<u>December 11th</u> Coffee and doughnuts in FH Morning Worship, Guest Preacher: Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson Lucia Rehearsal
<u>Monday</u> 9:00 a.m. –3:00 p.m. 9:30 a.m. 6:15 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<u>December 12th</u> Kindermusik Prayer Group Staff Parish Committee Meeting, Library UMW, Georgia Vesely
<u>Wednesday</u> 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	<u>December 14th</u> Children's Choirs Wednesday Night Supper Birthday Party for Jesus, Choir Room Chancel Choir Rehearsal
<u>Thursday</u> 12:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	<u>December 15th</u> Brown Bag Study on Grace Church Council Meeting DFA Choral Concert, Sanctuary
<u>Friday</u> 9:00-12:00 p.m.	<u>December 16th</u> Homeschool Music Classes
<u>Saturday</u> 7:00 p.m.	<u>December 17th</u> Choir Christmas Party

St. John United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 444
Augusta, GA 30903-0444

Return service requested

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS ST. JOHN UMC

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www.stjohnaugusta.org

December 4 — December 17, 2016

Anne Dillard told the story about seeing a bird dive to the ground from high in a tree and then stopped right at the ground to land. In that brief moment she was able to marvel at the awesomeness of God. She remembered the old phrase: “If a tree falls in the forest and nobody is around to hear it, does it make a noise?” And she began to think that God is in all things whether we see God or not. She determined that she was going to pay better attention.

This is the season of Advent; we talk about incarnation, about God being with us, and we talk about Emmanuel. But are we paying attention to where God is present?

We expect to experience God in the beauty of a sunset or in the beauty of the anthem, but are there other places that God is present when we don't see it?

A theology professor was teaching a workshop on worship. He had talked about baptism, communion, and the lectionary. When he got to the end of his presentation, a hand went up: “You know what really bugs me about worship?” The professor thought to himself, “Oh Lord, here it comes.” “It's not the preaching, or the organ, or the soloist, not even the contemporary music; you know the one thing that bugs me the most? It's the announcements.”

Everybody in the room shook their heads in agreement. The service starts, the music soars, worship begins, and then like a thud we hear: “The missions meeting will be in the fellowship hall this afternoon.” And it's like - Bam!- you crash and burn. Most worship leaders hate the announcements. (And actually we, at St. John, do the announcements before the worship music begins for that very reason.)

Announcements in the worship service may lack the passion and excitement, but it is in the details of church life where the theological rubber hits the road. We can move from a “Holy, Holy, Holy” moment to “the education meeting is at 2:00” and we go from flying high to landing pretty quickly. But isn't it true that the ministry of the church is worship at its best? You see, it is in the details and the work of the church that the church is bringing to life the scripture that says, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”

God is involved in our serving in the community, in our meetings, in our planning, in our youth retreats, in our AA meeting, even in our Finance meetings. The “Holy, Holy, Holy” continues even into the announcements because the announcements are the incarnation (if you will) of the work of God through the church into the world.

So, instead of not listening to the announcements because they are “not worship,” listen extra hard because they are the incarnational actions of God moving in the world. Could it be that the announcements are even more important than all the other things we do in worship?

If we learn anything this season, it is to see God in new ways; maybe in a bird, in a shimmering river, or in the face of a child. Let us not forget that the greatest message of all time came to some shepherds; and it was in the form of an announcement. I'm just sayin...Pay attention!

Dr. Jody Alderman

Check out our Advent Calendar of Events at Stjohnaugusta.org

«FIRST» «LAST»
«COMPANY»
«ADDRESS_2»
«ADDRESS_1»
«CITY», «STATE» «ZIP»

Worship Service

December 4, 2016

ADVENT: What Are You Expecting?

Sermon: What Did You Expect?

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 3:1-12

Psalm 72:1-7,18-19; Isaiah 11:1-10; Romans 15:4-13

Worship Service

December 11, 2016

ADVENT: What Are You Expecting?

Sermon: What's Going On?

Sermon Scripture: Matthew 11:2-11; Isaiah 35:1-10

Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10

Christmas Love Offering:

The Staff Parish Relations Committee would like our congregation to express appreciation to the church staff with a love offering this Christmas. Throughout the year our staff has provided outstanding service to us. Please place your check or envelope marked "Staff Christmas Offering" in the offering plate on Sunday. Also, please take time to thank these fine folks for all they do for us throughout the year.

Wednesday Night Supper December 7, 2016

Program: Book Club: Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

Menu: Salmon Patties/Chicken, potato casserole, mixed vegetables, tossed salad, orange cake, roll, tea and coffee.

Wednesday Night Supper December 14, 2016

Program: Birthday Party for Jesus!

The Childrens' choirs present the nativity through carols.

Menu: Roast beef, chicken, creamed potatoes, broccoli casserole, tossed salad, bread pudding, rolls, tea and coffee.

Cost: Adults: \$7; Youth (7-12) \$3; Children (3-6) \$1; Children under 3 are free. To reserve or cancel, call the church office at 706-724-9641 by 12:00 p.m. on the Tuesday before.



Advent Decorations Please contact Anna Butler, 706-799-8198, if you would like to remember or honor a loved one with any of the church decorations during the Advent Season.

Our Prayers

Mark Barron, Eve Richardson, David Lewis, Don Gordon, Jenny Berger, Curtis Oglesby, Glenn Markel, Jane Zeyfang, Tom Rogers, Cliff Richards, Diddy Thompson, Jackie Lott, The HaleHouse, New Bethlehem Community Center, The Stith Mead House, Military at home and deployed overseas, and the troubled corners of our world.

Sunday

Preaching The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman
Liturgist Allen Smith, 9 a.m.
Patty Strickland, 11 a.m.
Lay Reader Allen Smith, 9 a.m.
Bonnie Hodges, 11 a.m.
Ushers Kathy Morris, 9 a.m.
Rolston Wilder, Chair; Gerry Aldridge; Gary Crook; Colin Gordy; Carol Klein; Lansing Lee, III; Tim Maund; Charles Piercy; Charlie Tudor; William Walker; , 11 a.m.
Communion Stewards Ronald and Donna Strom 9 a.m.
Linda Walker and Jencie Hargrove, 11 a.m.
Communion Bread Baker Nancy Clements
Acolyte TBD
Crucifer TBD
Offering Counters Marion Butler and Bubba Nash
Sound Technicians Rich Laschober, 9a.m.
Eric Presnell, 11 a.m.

Sunday

Preaching The Reverend Dr. Jody Alderman
Liturgist Allen Smith, 9 a.m.
Lee Herndon, 11 a.m.
Lay Reader Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.
Sandy Hobbs, 11 a.m.
Ushers Rich Laschober, 9 a.m.
Charlie Tudor, Chair; Bill Bohling; Gary Crook; Colin Gordy; Carol Klein; Lansing Lee, III; Tim Maund; Charles Piercy; William Walker; Rolston Wilder, 11 a.m.
Acolyte TBD
Crucifer TBD
Offering Counters Chip Matson and Becky Rogers
Sound Technicians Ronald and Donna Strom, 9a.m.
Michael Young, 11 a.m.

Anyone involved on a church committee are encouraged to attend the Church Council meeting Thursday, December 15th at 5:30 p.m.

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

Bless This House: In memory of Sid Smith, brother of Linda Gordy, by Nesbit & Ann Dasher; by the Misfits Class; and by Curt & Patty Strickland; In honor of Cliff & Rita Channell and in honor of Nesbit & Ann Dasher by W. Wynn Riley

Budget: In memory of Sid Smith, brother of Linda Gordy, by Francis Altizer and by Charles & Joan Piercy

Music Memorials: In memory of Hubert Matney and in honor of Liz Matney by Jeanne & Lansing Lee III

Christmas Gift Ideas

Grateful is a richly beautiful children's book. This book was created around the song by our CWC artist, John Bucchino. As part of their Julie Andrews Collection, Harper Collins published this children's book, which was awarded the Parents' Choice Gold Award. Jamie is holding on to a few copies of the book for another week in case St John folk want to make a purchase for Christmas gifts. \$20 each. We also sell choir cds and notecards featuring our Stained Glass windows. See Jamie or inquire at the office.

The Ladies, Literature, and Laughter Book Club will meet Tuesday, December 6 at 7:00 pm for our Christmas Party Meeting at the home of Becky Moon, 500 Wendell Ct. Grovetown, GA 30813 Phone: 706-288-8216. Please notify Becky whether or not you plan to attend. Linda Gordy will provide our program/entertainment "2016 Final Exam." We look forward to lots of fun and fellowship at this meeting.

Poinsettias: Purchase a poinsettia to provide decoration for our worship services on Advent IV and Christmas Eve and to honor or remember a loved one. The cost is \$15. Deadline for orders is Dec. 11th. Profits benefit our children and youth music programs. Order forms can be found: (1)online; (2) in the St. John office; and (3) in the wall rack under the music\bulletin board in our lobby. Payments can be made by check or cash or online.

Bishop Sue Hauptert-Johnson visits the Augusta District

Dec. 11, 2016—Join us for a combined worship service at St. John at 11 am. The new bishop will be our guest preacher and the Junior Choir will lead us in music. Then the bishop will be meeting with laity at a Townhall Meeting at Thomson UMC at 3pm. All are invited.