

Messenger January 2020

FR. MIKE'S



CORNER

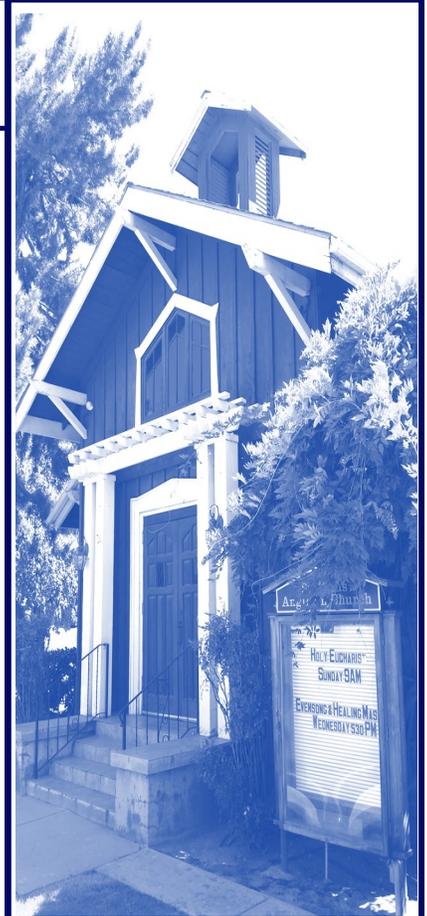
It seems as though we just entered the twenty-first century complete with the all of the Y2K mania and now, we are suddenly twenty years later.

There are three things you should be aware of as we launch into this new year.

First of all, we maintain a web site for those who have internet access. The address is:

<https://www.saintjohnsporterville.org>. On that web site you can access news and information that will keep you aware of calendar events throughout the year. A copy of each month's *Messenger* is also available on our web site along with each week's sermon sound file. You can also find pictures of past events and other useful information that can be accessed on our web site.

Secondly, we will be beginning a Bible study on Wednesday, January 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. This will occur on successive Wednesdays through February 19, 2020. We will begin with Morning Prayer and a Bible study of St. Paul's letter to the church at Rome. I have come to understand the Book of Romans critical in order to comprehend the Holy Scriptures as a whole. Bishop Thomas Cranmer, who created our Book of Common Prayer, expressed



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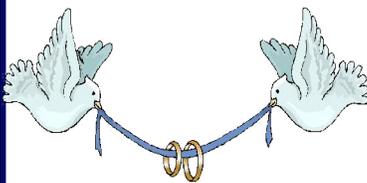


**JANUARY'S
SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST**

- ◆ 6-Epiphany
- ◆ 9-Men's Club
- ◆ 12-Epiphany
Celebration
- ◆ "Romans" Bible
Study 10 AM
Jan 15, 22 & 29
- ◆ 31-Men's Bible Study



- 02 MARILYN
(CHICK) CERNIGA**
- 04 CASEY BENNETT**
- 15 SAMANTHA
HUERTA**
- 18 MICHAEL COX**
- 20 MARVIN LYKINS**



Fr. Mike's Corner (cont.)

the reason for the Prayer Book this way: *Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Finally, we are aware that the *Messenger* reaches out beyond Porterville, California, to many distant places in the United States. We send it out to those who have been a part of Saint John's and moved to other locations. It also goes to those in our area who don't attend our congregation, but who are friends who have an interest in our congregation. If you are in the latter group and not already attached to a Christian church, prayerfully consider coming to our services on Sunday mornings and/or attending the upcoming classes on the book of Romans cited above. Unless you have contracted an allergy to Christian fellowship, worship, or the study of the Holy Scriptures, I know you'll be encouraged and blessed.

Have a blessed January 2020.

Mike+

Wise People still seek Him



The Fairness for All Act



breakpoint.org/breakpoint-the-fairness-for-all-act/



John Stonestreet

On Friday, Republican Representative Chris Stewart of Utah introduced the Fairness for All Act, which, as Christianity Today reports, “would prohibit anti-LGBT discrimination in employment, housing, and places of public accommodation, including retail stores, banks, and health care service providers.”

In essence, just like the proposed Equality Act supported by House Democrats, the Fairness for All Act would place sexual orientation and gender identity on par with race and religion as protected classes under the Civil Rights Act.

But there’s a major difference between Fairness for All and the Equality Act. The Fairness for All Act seeks to exempt religious organizations such as churches and nonprofits. So, for example, “Churches wouldn’t be required to host same-sex weddings. Christian schools wouldn’t have to hire LGBT people. Adoption agencies could receive federal funding even if they turned away same-sex couples looking to raise children.”

As such, Rep. Stewart and supporters of the Fairness for All Act see the bill as balancing religious freedom and LGBT rights.

Now I believe Fairness for All is a well-intentioned bill. And I believe that its supporters are truly trying to find ways to compromise with LGBT rights in order to preserve our religious liberties in the end.

But this Act is the wrong piece of legislation at the wrong time.

The Act would enshrine into law something that simply is not true, and for Christians that’s got to be a non-starter: that alternative sexual orientations and transgender identity are equal to race, that they are somehow immutable, something someone is born with. As my colleague Shane Morris discussed with me on BreakPoint This Week, the “born with” idea is a useful fiction created by the early proponents of the gay-rights movement to win public approval for their cause. They succeeded, of course, but it does not make the fiction any more true.

Second, the Act is addressing a non-issue. Back in the 1960s, the Civil Rights Act addressed a very real problem: There were entire swaths of the country where African Americans couldn’t find a hotel room, buy gas, or get a meal. And so public accommodations were necessary so African Americans could fully participate in society. That most certainly is not the case today with the so-called “sexual minorities.” When two men targeted

(Continue on Page 6)

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JohnsPorterville
@gmail.com
or telephone us
at 559/784-
6080.

If you have a
new
address or a
correction,
please let us
know.

THANK YOU.

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Winners of the Raffle

Painting by Katy Yarbo
by Rev. Don Roulsten

\$150 Gift Certificate for
Town & Country Market by
Brad & Victoria Stark

\$100.00 gift certificate to
Fugazzi's by Susie Williams



How blessed we are to have experienced yet another successful Christmas Bazaar at St. John's. Not only were we able to net over \$3,000 to be divided between St. John's Men's Club and the ACW, but we had fun working together to reach this point. The participation from St. John's church family from the items donated, to the set-up party, to the point of returning Brandon Hall to its normal state was awesome. There were so many positive comments from people regarding the delicious luncheon and each and every section. People came and visited and had a good time. Thank you to all of you for enabling St. John's to continue to help those in need in our community.

Jack and Judy Adams

Epiphany Celebration is January 12, 2020.

Come enjoy the fellowship.



Last years winners were:

Ring - Victoria Stark

Thimble - Fr. Mike

Dimes - Lynda Cordova, Judy Adams

Vicki Brown, & Mellie Manio



Mark Your Calendars

EVENTS



Classes January 11, 18 & 25
Beginning at 8:00AM



Wednesday, **January 1, 2020**

Thursday, January 9	Men's Club	6:00 PM
Sunday, January 12	Epiphany Celebration	10:30 AM
Sunday, January 12	Vestry Meeting	11:00 AM
Wednesday, January 15	Bible Study "Romans"	10:00 AM
Sunday, January 19	ACW-SJWC	10:30 AM
Wednesday, January 22	Bible Study "Romans"	10:00 AM
Wednesday, January 29	Bible Study "Romans"	10:00 AM
Friday, January 31	Men's Bible Study	7:00 AM

February

Wednesday, February 5	Bible Study "Romans"	10:00 AM
Sunday, February 9	Vestry Meeting	10:30 AM
Wednesday, February 12	Bible Study "Romans"	10:00 AM
Thursday, February 13	Men's Club	6:00 PM
Sunday, February 16	ACW-SJWC	10:30 AM
Wednesday, February 19	Bible Study "Romans"	10:00 AM
Sunday, February 23	Annual Meeting	10:30 AM
Tuesday, February 25	Shrove Tuesday	
Wednesday, February 26		
Friday, February 28	Men's Bible Study	7:00 AM
Saturday, February 29		



If anyone has any changes or corrections, please send a message to SaintJohnsPorterville@gmail.com or leave a note in the office.

(Fairness for All Cont...)

cakeshop owner Jack Phillips to force him to design a cake for their same-sex wedding, they knew full well that there were plenty of cakeshops nearby that would gladly do what they asked.

This raises another problem with the Fairness for All Act: Its exemptions “would not apply to for-profit businesses with 14 or fewer employees.” In other words, if you’re a Christian business owner, and not a church or a religious non-profit, you’re on the wrong side of the law—outside of the Act’s protections. Meaning Fairness for All isn’t really fairness for all.

And, as I explained on BreakPoint This Week, this act continues the ghastly idea that people of faith who insist on religious liberty are the bad guys. That they are bigots who need to be “exempted” precisely because they want to deny the rights of others.

The Fairness for All has its roots in what’s called the Utah Compromise, which was a state measure largely championed by the LDS church. It hasn’t worked in Utah and it’s not a good idea for federal legislation. In fact, these ideas were birthed under a previous presidential administration openly hostile to religious liberty—and when it looked like the next administration would be as well.

But elections matter. Federal courts and the Supreme Court are growing more conservative and more respectful of religious liberty. Now is simply not the time to give up the rights of individual believers in order to preserve the freedoms of religious institutions alone.

Now, do I think the Fairness for All Act will pass? No. Nor does Rep. Stewart. The Democrats hold the House and see no need to compromise at all on LGBT rights and religious rights.

And while there may be a way to truly balance these rights in the future, The Fairness for All Act isn’t it.

2020 Annual Pledge Drive

As we enter into the Epiphany Season, please take a moment to reflect on the blessings we have experienced during 2019 — both individually and as a congregation and look forward to this next year with generosity.

As we move forward, the Vestry is continuing to address several deferred maintenance issues that need our attention. Please help the Vestry as we make plans through the budget planning process to address these needs, as well as the overall operating expenses of St. John’s. Please return your pledge card to us no as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your continuing support of St. John’s.





ST. JOHN'S CHURCH PRAYER LIST

THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY
Our Church and the clergy-
The Most Rev. Foley Beach

And The Right Rev. Eric Menees, Bishop

The Rev. Michael Law The Rev. Dale Cox

The Anglican Communion worldwide and especially our Diocese as we support our Bishop Eric.

For this congregation in the daily lives we lead. For the growth of our church and its members.

For our past and present Military service members.

For those in need of prayer:

Charlotte Scribner	Shirley Perrin	Liz Sitton	John & Erma Adam
McLaughlin Family	Lori Perrin	Florence Frazier	Charlene Stringham
Ray & Chick Cerniga	Fred Knutson	Janice Thornton	Ashley Loehner
John & Katy Yarbrow	Lyn Trask		Patsy Silvas

Those facing cancer:

Steve Brown, Jerry Bailey, Lon Sitton, Carlos Lopez, Shannon Alto, and Meridith Morris

Rest of the Soul:

Fr. Tom Upton and Mike Tharp

Those facing life transitions

Flo Duffield

Let us be THANKFUL to God for his many blessings.

St. John's Church Prayer List-All requests for prayer will be updated quarterly. Additions can be made at any time. Please contact Judy Adams at 784-8243 or, if you prefer, you may send an e-mail to SaintJohnsPorterville@gmail.com to add a pray concern or remove and update a prayer concern. Please help us keep the list up to date and tell us when someone is better or in need of our prayers.



The lovely Poinsettias that decorated our sanctuary for the Christmas season were given by



Jack & Judy Adams in loving memory of:

Jack Jones, Jack Sr. & Marie Adams, John & Angie Dayen

Shirley Perrin in loving memory of:

Ralph Perrin, sisters Juanita, Janet and Linda

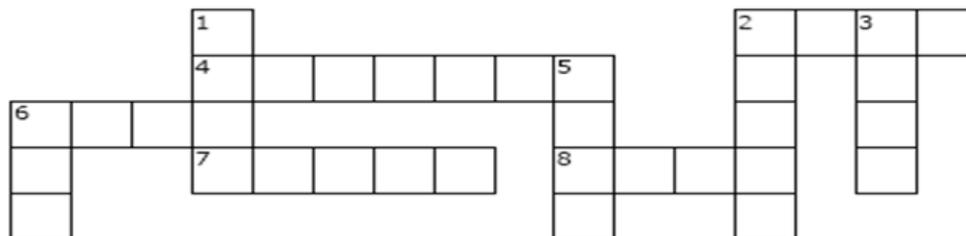
Fred & Norita Knutson in loving memory of:

*Johnnie J & Caroline B Knutson, Fred B & Caroline H Belton,
J.O. & Angelina Knutson*

The Visit of the Magi



On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.
Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

Service Schedule January 2020				
Date	01/05	01/12	01/19	01/26
Celebrant	Fr. Michael Law	Fr. Michael Law	Fr. Michael Law	Fr. Michael Law
Acolyte	Lynda Cordova	Marti Bennett	Lynda Cordova	Marti Bennett
Lay Reader	Suzanne Law	Sandra Luce	Suzanne Law	Lyn Trask
Organist	Fred Knutson	Nina Dikin	Fred Knutson	Fred Knutson
Ushers	Tom & Jackie Newkirk	Jack & Judy Adams	Steve & Vicki Brown	Jack & Judy Adams
Altar Guild	Team 1	Team 2	Team 3	Team 4
Counters	Jack & Judy Adams	Steve & Vicki Brown	Tom & Jackie Newkirk	Jack & Judy Adams



January 2020

Anglican Church of North America

St. John's Porterville, CA



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 CIRCUMCISION AND HOLY NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Ex 34:1-9 Ps 8 Rom 1:1-7 Luke 2:15-21	2	3	4
5 SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Jer 31:7-14 Ps 84 Eph 1:3-14 Luke 2:41-52 or Matt 2:1-12	6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST Isa 60:1-9 Ps 72 or Ps 72:1-11 Eph 3:1-13 Matt 2:1-12	7	8	9 Men's Club 6 PM	10	11
12 FIRST SUNDAY OF EPIPHAN Vestry Isa 42:1-9 Ps 89:1-29 or 89:20-29 Acts 10:34-38 Matt 3:13-17	13	14	15 Bible Study Romans 10AM	16	17	18 CONFESSION OF ST. PETER Acts 4:8-13 Ps 23 1 Pet 5:1-11 Matt 16:13-19
19 SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY ACW Ex 12:21-28 Ps 40:1-11 1 Cor 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	20	21	22 Bible Study Romans 10AM	23	24	25 CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL Acts 26:9-21 Ps 67 Gal 1:11-24 Matt 10:16-25
26 THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY Amos 3:1-11 Ps 139:1-18 1 Cor 1:10-17 Matt 4:12-22	27	28	29 Bible Study Romans 10AM	30	31 Men's Bible Study 7 AM	White Green

Epiphany Celebration
January 12th
following Holy Eucharist

Come let us
Adore
Him



Winners of the Bazaar Raffle

Painting by Katy Yarbo
by Rev. Don Roulsten

\$150 Gift Certificate for
Town & Country Market by
Brad & Victoria Stark

\$100.00 gift certificate to
Fugazzi's by Susie Williams

6 Week Bible Study "Romans"

Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

Beginning January 15, 2020

"I have come to understand the Book of Romans
critical in order to comprehend the Holy Scriptures
as a whole." (Fr. Mike)

Hope to see you there!

ANSWERS TO THE CROSSWORD (page 8):
MAGI BOW STAR GOLD KING GIFTS EAST BORN MYRRH INCENSE