



**UTO (United Thank Offering) In-gathering:** Bring your envelopes or little blue boxes on ***Sunday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>***. Hopefully you have been putting coins in your little Blue Boxes...but just in case, there are extra boxes at both entrances to the church.

United Thank Offering is not a fund drive, but rather a discipline in our daily life in Christ wherein we offer prayers of thanksgiving for our countless blessings. Each time you feel thankful, say a prayer of thanksgiving and drop a coin in the little Blue Box. Twice a year, you will be asked to bring in the money so that we can send it to the UTO In-gathering...to make a real difference in so many lives around the world. In previous years, our own Next Step Homeless Services and the Good Samaritan Clinic have received funds from the UTO to enable them to continue to do the great work they do here in Fort Smith.

**Bicentennial Book Update:** I had hoped that the Bicentennial books would have arrived by now, but after contacting the publisher early this month I was told it now looks like it will be the end of November.

I wish I had better news, but I must just ask you to keep the faith & they will be here eventually  
Thank you, Angela

**Photos Taken:** Sunday, *Nov. 12*, following the services, see Karen Rouse.

- **Newcomers:** Have your photo made for the photo directory in the parish hallway.
- **Members:** Get a new or updated photo of you and/or your family for the parish directory on the hallway bulletin board.

**Saints Alive – November:** *Saturday, November 18 at 6:00 pm* at the home of Jim & Susan Horton. The main course will be vegetable beef stew. Please bring a side dish, or dessert, and the beverage of your choice. Their address is 4013 Gascony Way, Fort Smith, AR. Call 479-650-1580 for directions.

**Thanksgiving Service:** Each year our nation sets aside one day for a day of “Thanksgiving.” The Episcopal Church recognizes this civic holiday as a Feast-day for the church. At St. John’s we commemorate all we have to be thankful for as a nation with a service of Holy Eucharist. This year’s celebration will be held at 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Wednesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This sacred service will allow worshipers to focus on the spiritual side of the holiday and then families can spend time together on Thanksgiving Day.

**Church Offices will be closed on** *Thursday, November 23 & Friday, November 24* for the Thanksgiving Holiday. We will reopen on November 27 at 8:30am. Hope you have a great holiday.

**Girls Night Out:** Full of turkey and all the trimmings? Come join this group of ladies for a change of menu on **Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>**, at **Sam’s Southern Eatery – Seafood Restaurant**, 9709

Rogers Avenue, starting at 6:00 pm. Very good catfish and jumbo shrimp are just two entrees that can be found on their menu. You will be contacted for reservations. Fun and fellowship are always part of this ecumenical group.

**Advent Lessons & Carols:** It's coming – *December 3.*

**Laymen's League:** The Laymen's Steak Fry will be held on *Friday, December 8 at 6:00 pm* in the Parish Hall. The menu is steak, potatoes, a vegetable and a dessert. See you then.

**ECW's Fall Gathering:** The Episcopal Church Women will hold their annual Fall Gathering on *Nov. 17–18, at Camp Mitchell.* The Rev. Patricia Matthews, assistant rector of St. Mark's in Little Rock, will be the guest speaker and will look at "Embracing the Strength of Each Stage of Life." There will also be a chef's demo and special meditation Friday night. The cost is \$110, which includes Friday night's lodging and dinner, and Saturday's breakfast and lunch. (Friday dinner only: \$35; Saturday events only: \$25.) Learn more and register on the ECW website.

**Did you know?** You can make a secure donation to St. John's using your PayPal account or your Debit Card. Just click the link to go to our website <http://stjohnfs.org/giving/> it's that easy!



**CONNECTIONS GROUPS:** For Service, Social, or Study opportunities: Online Sign Up- [www.stjohnfs.org](http://www.stjohnfs.org) Home Page. Or Forms are on the Hallway Bulletin Board.

- **Rector's Classes** – Story of the Church in America. *Wednesdays at 5:00pm* in the Skinner Building and *Sundays at 9:15am* in Chambers Hall. **Class resumes this Sunday, Nov. 12.**
- **"First and Third Thursdays" Bible Study:** *Thursday, Nov. 16 from 12:00-1:00 p.m.* you are invited to be a part of a new Bible study group that is forming at St. John's. Bring your lunch and we will provide the drinks. The study will begin in Genesis and work through the Story of the Old Testament. Contact Emily Zeigler 462-2366 or Father Mike 221-4030.
- **Casserole of Life:** *8:30am, Nov. 10,* Parish Hall Kitchen – prepares hot meal for Next Step Homeless Services clients. Serve meal at 11:30. Contacts are Mariko Clifton (479) 461-9417, Betsy or Jeff Champlin (479) 353-1316.
- **Enneagram:** Meet *5:30pm-6:45pm, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday, next meeting Nov. 13* in the Youth Room/Skinner Building. Group meets 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of the month.

## **YOUTH:**

**STARFISH– 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>** grades: 2017-18: Hope & Worship Meet: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays; 12:00-2:00 pm with lunch provided.

- **Nov. 12**—Dolphin's & STARFISH 12:00-2:00, Shared lunch in the Skinner Building then both groups will prepare Sack Lunch.

- **Nov. 26**—STARFISH, Dolphins & Families—Hanging of the Greens: Decorate Chrismon Tree & Hang greens in Parish Hall
- **Dec. 1** (Friday) 6:00 pm. STARFISH Dinner and attending Shabbat of Jewish Community  
Friends welcome to join us. *Optional: Return to church for Lock In.... youth will decide.*

**Dolphins** – (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades) – Next meeting – **Nov. 12**, 12-2:00 p.m. Sack Lunch Preparation.

**Girls Scouts**: Next meeting, **Nov. 20**. Meetings are first and third Mondays from 5-7 at St John's in the classrooms by the nursery (church side of campus). Everyone please bring a snack, its potluck! As always, guests are always welcome. Leader: Natalie King-Hyman.

### **WORSHIP MINISTERS –Sunday, Nov. 12, 2017**

#### **8:00 service:**

**Usher:** Chris Glasco.

**Lay Ministers:** *1st Lesson*, Terri Glasco; *Psalm & 2nd Lesson*, Dr. Rebecca James; *Prayers*, Becky Ibison; *Chalice*, Muggy Murray & Becky Ibison.

**Altar Guild:** Connie Smith.

**Hospitality:** Dr. Rebecca James.

**Announcements:** Becky Ibison.

#### **10:30 service:**

**Ushers:** Bob & Patti Gray.

**Lay Ministers:** *1<sup>st</sup> Lesson*, Dennis Goff; *2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson*, Sherri Tickler; *Prayers (Form III)* Steve Kilpatrick; *Chalice*, Irene Willbanks & Mike Orite.

**Acolytes:** *Server*, Cole Meyers; *Asst. Server*, Andrew Buergler; *Crucifer*, Grayson Fielder;; *Torches*, Cate Randall & Sydney Randall. *Parent helper*, Eden Buergler.

**Children's Chapel:** Lori Burton.

**Altar Guild:** Joan Kincannon, Lee Vlademar.

**Hospitality:** Cissy Goff.

**Announcements:** Pat Klahr.

