



## THE RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS...

By Rev. Kershaw

Joan Chittester writes in her book, *The Liturgical Year*, that the purpose of the three year liturgical cycle is to prod us to bear Christ in our own lives. Certainly the liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany do this. Chittester writes, "We must do more than simply go through the Advent calendar; we must develop in us an Advent heart."

Friend and colleague the Rev. Peter Coffin writes that Advent is a time of hearing the Gospel and interpreting it so that it makes sense to us in our time and place—in other words, allowing the Gospel to change us, transform us, and enliven us.

*"It was only after my father retired that I learned that he had long ago enjoyed art classes in high school, particularly oil painting, and that he was taking up painting again. Soon some of his older grandchildren had taken to calling him Grampe' (as in rhyming with Monet). No one ribbed him about his paintings, though; they became his passion.*

*A few years ago, while visiting my parents in Florida, I came back to their home from a day at the beach with my children and found my father (not uncharacteristically) up in his "studio" in the attic. There he was working at an easel on one of what had to be a hundred canvasses in varying states of completion. Nearby, on a bench, I noticed a painting of the house my wife and young family had lived in a decade ago in Lancaster, NH. It was a house my father knew well; he had visited often and stayed many-a-night. He had seen the house in every season and photographed it often, knowing he would someday paint it, standing as it did, a strong, log structure at the top of a pretty field. And suddenly there it was, mostly finished, in a Florida attic. I silently appraised it, finally offering that he'd gotten just a few things "wrong" about it. Without saying anything, he selected a brush and held it out for me to take. As stark, factual proof that he, The Artist, needed to correct his own work I*

*said, "Look, the metal roof, it's supposed to be red, not blue." "So fix it," he said. Clearly he wasn't going to right the wrong, so I reluctantly took the offered brush. He had the bones of the painting right: the tree line, the horizon, even the structure of the house. But, that roof..., and the driveway needed maybe just a hint of tire tracks needed to show through the pristine, white snow. Suddenly, I looked up and an hour had passed; I hoped my wife had an idea where the children were! But I also looked at the painting and realized that his 90% effort and my 10%, together, made a pretty good likeness of the place to present to anyone who had never experienced it. And, it does as it now hangs in my dining room. It makes me smile, not because it is great art, but because together we got it "right" for ourselves and others to appreciate.*

*There is something of all this in Advent for me. Each year we are presented with another artist's ("Gospeler's") work to admire as we hear anew from Matthew, Mark, or Luke of God's love in Jesus. The Gospel most read in the year to come will be read and held out for us, not just to us. Pictures and ideas are held out to move our minds - "A voice cries out in the wilderness..." As we hear and see the old, familiar work, there is always an aspect of the story which demands our input. Matthew, Mark, and Luke did what they could with their brushes/quills, yet their envisioning —each slightly different—of who the Christ is, of how the story goes, is of their own interpreting, graced by The Spirit to be transmitted to each of their differing audiences, each in a differing times and places. Thus, I get the sense each time*

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**Reminder:**

*The next issue's articles are due on the 15th of the previous month..*

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## KNITTING FELLOWSHIP

By Rev. Kershaw

An evening knitting group, with the emphasis on fellowship and conversation, begins in January on Thursday evenings. It begins on Thursday, January 14, at 6:30 p.m., in the Parish Hall. Bring a project, share a skill, and enjoy a nice, casual evening out (weather permitting, of course!). There's no agenda to the gathering other than fellowship. If you are a knitter, please come out and bring a friend or two! This gathering is aimed especially at those knitters unable to attend the Knit & Nibble mid-day group that resumes during Lent to knit hats and scarves for the Seafarers. If you want to learn to knit, this is the place to pursue that skill! All are welcome.

## ART AFTER SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 6

By Rev. Kershaw

Art After School resumes on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 3:30 p.m. As January 6 is Epiphany, we'll have a "Three Kings" party and an art activity that reflects the meaning of the day. New young artists are always welcome, so please feel free to invite a friend. Artists Racheal Scott and Joan D'Alessio will be adding their artistic gifts as part of the Artists Team that leads the children in a variety of projects designed to enhance their creativity, challenge their imaginations, and build community among children in grades one through six. Donations are needed for healthy snacks (cran-grape, cran-raspberry, or apple juice; crackers; cheese; or fruit). A generous grant from the Leslie Hubbard Family foundation allows us to offer this program to young artists in the community at no charge.

## BREAKFAST & BIBLE GROUP

By Rev. Kershaw

We're making our way through the Gospel of Luke. Luke tells stories of the Good News in Jesus, God's Son to people who were trying to decide what it meant to be faithful while under the rule of the occupying Romans, as well as to the fledgling church. Non-Jews were enthusiastically responding to the Good News in Jesus, sometimes more enthusiastically than those who claimed a special relationship with God. How do these challenges compare to our own challenges to be faithful in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? Come out on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. for conversation about Luke. All are welcome.

### St. John's Church Mutual Ministry Goals

- Start a Mom's Play Group
- Be Intentional About Mission Giving
- Expand Art After School program
- Learn a New Song/Hymn Once a Month
- Start Breakfast & Bible study group
- Start Fifth Sunday effort of involving children in liturgy

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and NOTICES



### Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration

The Walpole churches invite you to join in an ecumenical event commemorating civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We'll gather on Sunday, January 17, at 5 p.m. at Hastings House (Union Ave.) for a Soup Supper. Each congregation is asked to bring soup, bread, and dessert. A sign up list will be in the Parish Hall. This is a great time of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ. Please sign up today!

### Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 24, 2010

The Annual Meeting of St. John's Church will be held on Sunday, January 24 at 11:30, following the Eucharist. All members of the church are encouraged to attend. There will be a lunch. The business will include hearing reports from 2008, reviewing the 2010 budget passed by the Vestry at the December 14, 2009 meeting, and voting on a slate of nominations for officers and Vestry members. Please sign up in the Parish Hall to bring something for the lunch.

### Rector's Day Off Changes

Effective immediately, the Rector's day off is changing to Monday.

### Calendar

VESTRY MEETING will be Monday, January 4, 6 p.m.

MID-WEEK EUCHARIST is held every Wednesday at Noon.

**DECEMBER**

<b>December 20, 2009</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite I</b>		<b>4 Advent</b>	
<b>Micah:</b> 5:2-5a	Jean Aldrich	<b>EM:</b> Mary McHugh	<b>Ushers:</b> Darrow Clark, Sue Bauer	<b>Teaching:</b> Charlie Montgomery	
<b>Psalm:</b> Luke 1:46b-55	Saantha Scott	<b>Cruc.:</b> Samantha Scott	<b>Nursery:</b> Whitney Cadmus	<b>Counters:</b> Jean Aldrich Darrow Clark	
<b>Hebrews:</b> 10:5-10	Mary McHugh		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>Luke:</b> 1:39-45[,46-55]	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Betty Williams		<b>Flowers:</b> Jane Bowry			
<b>December 24, 2009</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite II</b>		<b>Nativity of our Lord Proper 1</b>	
<b>Isaiah:</b> 9:2-7	Nancy McAuliffe	<b>EM:</b> Sarah Downing	<b>Ushers:</b> Jim & Janet Wickwire	<b>Teaching:</b> TBD	
<b>Psalm:</b> 96	Jack Pratt	<b>Cruc.:</b> Sarah Downing	<b>Nursery:</b> TBD	<b>Counters:</b> Nancy McAuliffe Jack Pratt	
<b>Titus:</b> 2:11-14	Sarah Downing		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>Luke:</b> 2:1-14 [,15-20]	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Georgie Haight		<b>Flowers:</b> Judy Harrison			
<b>December 25, 2009</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite II</b>		<b>Christmas Day</b>	
<b>Isaiah:</b> 62:6-12	TBD	<b>EM:</b> Greg Pierson	<b>Ushers:</b> TBD	<b>Teaching:</b> No Sunday School	
<b>Psalm:</b> 97	TBD	<b>Cruc.:</b> Greg Pierson	<b>Nursery:</b> No Nursery	<b>Counters:</b> TBD	
<b>Titus:</b> 3:4-7	Greg Pierson		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>Luke:</b> 2:[1-7,] 8-20	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Altar Guild		<b>Flowers:</b> Flower Committee			
<b>December 27, 2009</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite II</b>		<b>1 Christmas</b>	
<b>1 Samuel:</b> 2:18-20, 26	Dave Adams	<b>EM:</b> Mary McHugh	<b>Ushers:</b> TBD	<b>Teaching:</b> No Sunday School	
<b>Psalm:</b> 148	Samantha Scott	<b>Cruc.:</b> Samantha Scott	<b>Nursery:</b> No Nursery	<b>Counters:</b> Jim McAuliffe George Cheney	
<b>Colossians:</b> 3:12-17	Mary McHugh		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>Luke:</b> 2:41-52	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b>		<b>Flowers:</b>			

<b>January 3, 2010</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite I</b>		<b>2 Christmas</b>	
<b>Jeremiah:</b> 31:7-14	Mary Schoppmeyer	<b>EM:</b> Pete Harrison	<b>Ushers:</b> Greg Pierson George Curchin	<b>Teaching:</b>	
<b>Psalm:</b> 147	Ellen Adams	<b>Cruc.:</b> Pete Harrison	<b>Nursery:</b> Mary Schoppmeyer	<b>Counters:</b> Mary Schoppmeyer Pete Harrison	
<b>Ephesians:</b> 1:3-14	Pete Harrison		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>John:</b> 1:[1-9],10-18	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Mary McHugh		<b>Flowers:</b> Janet Wickwire			
<b>January 10, 2010</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite II</b>		<b>Baptism of the Lord</b>	
<b>Isaiah:</b> 43:1-7	Nancy McAuliffe	<b>EM:</b> Greg Pierson	<b>Ushers:</b> Jim & Nancy McAuliffe	<b>Teaching:</b>	
<b>Psalm:</b> 29	Clif Cooke	<b>Cruc.:</b> Greg Pierson	<b>Nursery:</b> Sue Bauer	<b>Counters:</b> George Curchin Greg Pierson	
<b>Acts:</b> 8:14-17	Greg Pierson		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>Luke:</b> 3:15-17, 21-22	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Mary Schoppmeyer		<b>Flowers:</b> Lyn Cooke			
<b>January 17, 2010</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite I</b>		<b>2 Epiphany</b>	
<b>Isaiah:</b> 62:1-5	Jack Pratt	<b>EM:</b> Sarah Downing	<b>Ushers:</b> Chas & Delores Street	<b>Teaching:</b>	
<b>Psalm:</b> 36	Chas Street	<b>Cruc.:</b> Sarah Downing	<b>Nursery:</b> Delores Street	<b>Counters:</b> Nancy McAuliffe Jack Pratt	
<b>1 Corinthians:</b> 12:1-11	Sarah Downing		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>John:</b> 2:1-11	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Betty Williams		<b>Flowers:</b> Janet Wickwire			
<b>January 24, 2010</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite II</b>		<b>3 Epiphany</b>	
<b>Nehemiah:</b> 8:1-3, 5-6	Eric Herr	<b>EM:</b> Mary McHugh	<b>Ushers:</b> Whitney Aldrich Sue Bauer	<b>Teaching:</b>	
<b>Psalm:</b> 19	Samantha Scott	<b>Cruc.:</b> Samantha Scott	<b>Nursery:</b> Nancy McAuliffe	<b>Counters:</b> Jim McAuliffe George Cheney	
<b>1 Corinthians:</b> 12:12-31a	Mary McHugh		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>Luke:</b> 4:23-30	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Georgie Haight		<b>Flowers:</b> Judy Harrison			
<b>January 31, 2010</b>		<b>Holy Communion Rite II</b>		<b>4 Epiphany</b>	
<b>Jeremiah:</b> 1:4-10	Jean Aldrich	<b>EM:</b> Pete Harrison	<b>Ushers:</b> Whitney Aldrich Jim Wickwire	<b>Teaching:</b>	
<b>Psalm:</b> 71	Elinor Ackerman	<b>Cruc.:</b> Pete Harrison	<b>Nursery:</b> no Sunday School	<b>Counters:</b> Mary Schoppmeyer Pete Harrison	
<b>1 Corinthians:</b> 13:1-13	Pete Harrison		<b>Coffee:</b> <i>Pls check the board.</i>		
<b>Luke:</b> 4:21-30	Rev. Kershaw				
<b>Altar:</b> Janet Wickwire		<b>Flowers:</b> Judy Harrison			

**JANUARY**

## FEBRUARY

February 7, 2010		Holy Communion Rite I		5 Epiphany	
Isaiah: 6:1-8, [9-13]	Ellen Adams	EM: Pete Harrison	Ushers: Mary Schoppmeyer Pete Harrison		
Psalm: 138	Mary Schoppmeyer	Cruc.: Pete Harrison	Teaching:		
1 Corinthians: 15:1-11	Pete Harrison		Nursery: Whit Aldrich		
Luke: 5:1-11	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Greg Pierson George Curchin		
	Altar: Mary McHugh	Flowers: Janet Wickwire	Coffee: Pls check the board.		
February 14, 2010		Holy Communion Rite II		Transfiguration Sunday	
Exodus: 34:29-35	Clif Cooke	EM: Greg Pierson	Ushers: Greg Pierson George Curchin		
Psalm: 99	Jack Pratt	Cruc.: Greg Pierson	Teaching:		
2 Corinthians: 3:12-4:2	Greg Pierson		Nursery: Dave Adams		
Luke: 9:28-36,[37-43]	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Nancy McAuliffe Jack Pratt		
	Altar: Mary Schoppmeyer	Flowers: Lyn Cooke	Coffee: Pls check the board.		
February 17, 2010		Holy Communion		Ash Wednesday	
Isaiah: 58:1-9		EM: TBD	Ushers:		
Psalm: 51		Cruc.: TBD	Teaching:		
2 Corinthians: 5:20b-6:10			Nursery:		
Matthew: 6:1-6,16-21	Rev. Kershaw		Counters:		
	Altar:	Flowers:	Coffee: Pls check the board.		
February 21, 2010		Holy Communion Rite I		First Sunday of Lent	
Deuteronomy: 26:1-11	Eric Herr	EM: Sarah Downing	Ushers: Jim & Nancy McAuliffe		
Psalm: 91	Nancy McAuliffe	Cruc.: Sarah Downing	Teaching:		
Romans: 10:8b-13	Sarah Downing		Nursery: Whitney Cadmus		
Luke: 4:1-13	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Jim McAuliffe George Cheney		
	Altar: Betty Williamst	Flowers: Janet Wickwire	Coffee: Pls check the board.		
February 28, 2010		Holy Communion Rite II		Second Sunday of Lent	
Genesis: 15:1-12, 17-18	Chas Street	EM: Mary McHugh	Ushers: Chas & Delores Street		
Psalm: 27	Elinor Ackerman	Cruc.: Samantha Scott	Teaching:		
Philippians: 3:17-4:1	Mary McHugh		Nursery: EllenAdams		
Luke: 13:31-35	Rev. Kershaw		Counters: Mary Schoppmeyer Peter Harrison		
	Altar: Georgie Haight	Flowers: Judy Harrison	Coffee: Pls check the board.		

that Advent rolls around that something is being asked of me, of us; since we have an ever deepening experience of the story, we're also being handed a brush to help interpret, to help paint the picture of God's love in Christ, to help with the nuances of the bones underneath it, in order that it makes sense to us and to those of our time and place. The Church has done this in every age, through "professional" voices of "approved" theologians, and sometimes through the unwanted, "unapproved" voices of radical artists, which were to be dismissed, even burned as bad art.

I read recently a quote from the theologian Karl Rahner in the New York edition of the *Episcopalian* that read, "[T]he Christian of the future will be a mystic, or he [she] will not be a Christian at all." Given that he was writing in the middle of the

last century, he was talking now about you and me. And, he was right. IF we are to be Christians today, IF we are to participate in the life of Christ through the Church, then we must do the mystic's work of critically discerning and then re-presenting (as the artist) the always-in-the-present love of God in Christ to the world. We are called to (as it were) to examine that picture of love presented by a previous artist ("Gospelers" and theologians) and to now take up a "brush", to take up the work where others have left off, re-presenting, making present again, what we come to see (mystic=seer). God's salvation came 2000 years ago, and we now hear in Advent that it has come again. Let us be the mystic artist: listen, look hard, see, and then do the work we must to re-present to the world today the God we have each come to see in Christ, and to do it in  
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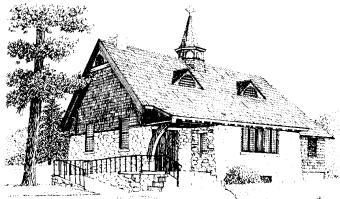
*a way in which others can apprehend. Isn't that's what the artist is after? That another might apprehend what he (she) has glimpsed?*

*In our age we now recognize that it is the responsibility of every serious Christian to do this re-presenting work, no matter what it looks like in the end. And, luckily for us, we no longer burn people for using, say, blue instead of red when we communicate what we believe to be true."*

We can be thankful for the diversity of re-presenting, making present again, the picture of God's love, however articulated or shared. The challenge of the liturgical year is to live through, with, and in that love.

May this Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany be a time in which you experience the richness that comes from glimpsing God's love and finding ways to make it present again!

Peace, *Susan +*



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The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, *Presiding Bishop*  
The Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, *Bishop of New Hampshire*  
The Rev. Susan de Puy Kershaw, *Rector*

#### **Vestry**

Sue Bauer, *Warden*  
George Cheney, *Warden*  
Dave Adams, *Treasurer*  
Sarah Downing, *Clerk*  
Jean Aldrich, *Vestry*  
MaryAnn Longever, *Vestry*  
Daniel Scott, *Vestry*

#### **Other Leaders**

Colby Baker, *Organist*  
Peter Harrison, *Plodge Treasurer*  
Janet Wickwire, *Altar Guild*

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