

The Innkeeper Luke 2:1-7

I knew them not, and I had never seen
A man whose face was quite so trouble-lined;
Nor any woman who, so great with child,
Possessed an air of such angelic ease

The inn was full; and even had they been
From Herod's court, I knew I could not find
A room for them

But 'round her face so mild,
A strange light seemed to glow when she said,
"Please,"

What could I do? For I was never keen
At turning folk away; then, in my mind
My little stable flashed. The thought was wild,
But shelter must be found for such as these

And so it was; there in the manger mean
Began the greatest Life of humankind
The inn was full; and so I am reviled,
And so shall be for all eternities
And yet I think one question is my due:
I found a place for Him. Have you? Have you?

Vic Jameson—

That last line, especially, caught my attention; making room for Jesus. Jesus is, after all, the main point of all that is about to happen. Christmas is a wondrous time in which to be alive. It is a big event. The festive feeling is everywhere we go; the anticipation of renewing old friendships and holding family gatherings;

the many activities and programs of the season, along with everything else, combine to create an exciting air of celebration.

But, of course, these things are not the main point of Christmas. They are the joyful extras that frame the main point of this event. If we are not careful we too can easily leave the main event out of the big event. Christmas is, first and foremost, a Birthday Party. We celebrate the birthday of our savior: Jesus the Christ. Our Joy is present, first and foremost, because of what his birth has brought to the whole world and to each of us personally.

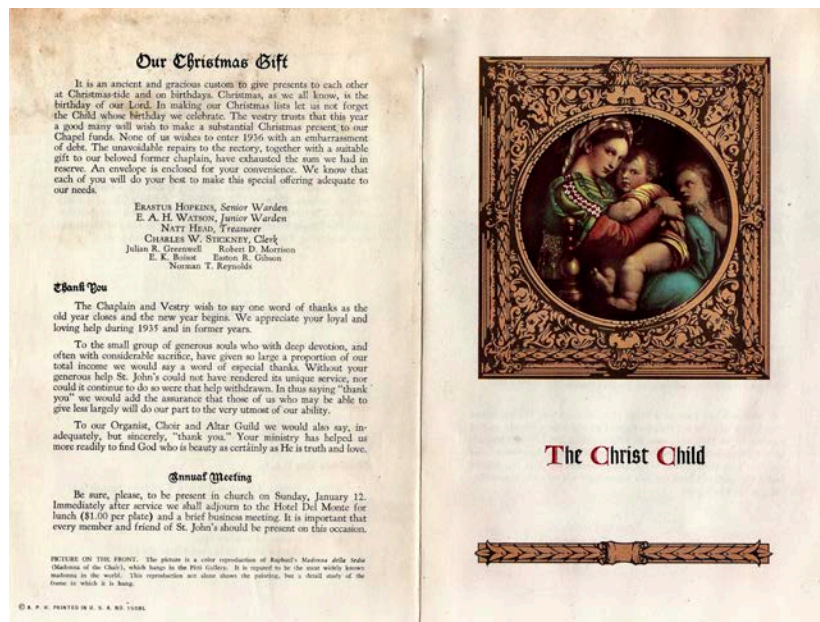
Don't arrive at the big event without the main event this year. Do more than just let Jesus in. Make him the center and meaning of your whole season. This is, after all, Christmas.

Peace,
Fr. Rick



The 1930s: St. John's During the Great Depression

By Elizabeth and Richard Barratt, St. John's Historians



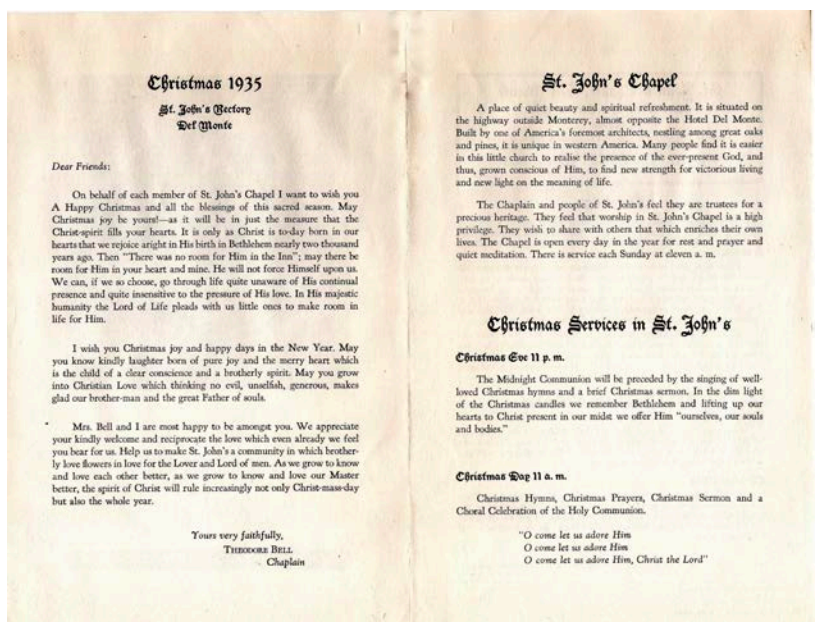
Despite the stock market crash three months earlier, St. John's began the 1930s decade in fiscal comfort. Pledges came in on time, salaries and operating expenses were met. In June 1930 the Vestry called the Rev. Earnest Bradley to become the new rector. Roof repairs in 1932 caused the only major expense. There was even enough surplus in the coffers to hire a Sexton. "St. John's is weathering the Depression very well," the January 1933 Vestry minutes noted.

But the good news didn't last. By March 1933 several of the chapel's wealthiest members reduced their pledges, forcing the Vestry to offer organist Edward Hopkins a one-third salary reduction. After he resigned seeking a more lucrative position, the Vestry wrote him, "We wish it to be understood that this reduction in your stipend is no reflection on your ability as an organist or a Choirmaster, and St. John's considers itself fortunate in having so accomplished a musician to interpret its services." James Townsend was hired in his place, agreeing to accept the lowered salary.

By January 1934 financial alarm moved the Rev. Bradley to offer a cutback in his salary. Into 1935, the Depression had overtaken some of the heaviest pledges and the

collection plate grew light despite newcomers adding what they could. The Vestry was forced to dip into the surplus fund, all the while fearing its depletion. Adding to the misery, in August 1935 the much-loved Rev. Bradley suddenly resigned, due to ill health. Although the Vestry was quick to call the Rev. Theodore Bell a month later, the new rector was offered a decreased salary from his predecessor's.

By the middle of the 1930s, the country was floundering. Lowered incomes left citizens with little to spend or to save. Locally, Monterey faced a failing sardine fishery. Even with closing canneries, many Dust Bowl migrants came looking for work, bringing overcrowded conditions and a strain on local resources. The area's economic distress was captured in John Steinbeck's novel, "Cannery Row." The 1935 national and world news wrap-up listed the plane crash in Alaska of humorist and film legend Will Rogers and aviator Wiley Post, the assassination of Louisiana governor Huey Long, and the capture and sentencing of Bruno Hauptmann, convicted kidnapper of the deceased Charles Lindbergh baby. Overseas, the world saw gathering clouds of World War II as Mussolini's troops invaded Ethiopia, and Germany's decision to denounce the Versailles treaty *Continued on p. 3*



Great Depression, Continued from p. 2 and begin rearmament. One bright year's note was the newly introduced Pan Am China Clipper aircraft. On November 22, 1935, the modern new plane took off from Alameda to deliver the first airmail cargo across the Pacific Ocean. The airliner reached Manila on November 29, delivering 110,000 pieces of mail following refueling stops in Honolulu, Midway Island, Wake Island and Guam. The new air postal service, which included commercial flights across the Pacific, was a significant event in the annals of overseas air travel.

Christmas 1935 was approaching and St. John's parishioners wanted to make the best of things. Two lovely services were planned, one for 11:00 PM on Christmas Eve and another on Christmas Day at 11:00 AM. The Vestry, again seeking to encourage holiday income, ordered two service bulletins. One was for the St. John's members, asking for financial help. The other was handed to visitors, welcoming them and praising the Hotel Del Monte and its staff, with no mention of a donation.

The holidays ended and on January 12, 1936, at its first Annual Meeting luncheon ever held in its history, members gathered at the Hotel Del Monte to listen to Fr. Bell. The new chaplain offered a grim financial picture, including a long overdue repair bill from the M.J. Murphy Company that the chapel couldn't pay. By March 1936, James Townsend, the organist hired three years earlier, was dismissed after chapel was unable to meet his salary. Miss Alice Keith was hired at even lower pay but she, too resigned after five months.

Comprehending the situation, Miss Winifred Beaumont, a former St. John's organist, agreed to take over as organist at a minimal stipend. By 1937, annual pledges, which had started out the decade at an average of \$140 per unit, had dwindled to an average of \$60 per unit. There was nothing left over. The Treasurer's breakdown noted "danger zone" on his analysis sheet.

At St. John's, the end of the 1930s decade also brought heavy maintenance expenses. Several majestic oaks, left untended for lack of repair funds, were cut down. The chapel's foundation had termites, the organ needed repairs, and the old furnace was failing. In 1938, grim news from Europe motivated the Vestry to send the following letter to President Franklin Roosevelt, California Senators, the diocesan Bishop and local newspapers, "We wish you to know how deeply the conscience of Christian people in America has been stirred by the barbarous, cold pogrom which is making hideous the lives of both Jews and Christians in Germany. We urge you to make vocal this protest of all decent people against the intolerable wrong inflicted on the weak and helpless...and view this great wrong with abhorrence and will be behind you in stern condemnation of an almost unparalleled crime against humanity.

At last, the 1930s-decade ground to a halt. But soon, St. John's had a new project to plan. By January 1941, the congregation was busy preparing for its Golden Jubilee, a celebration of fifty years since its founding. The old decade at last over, the new one, everyone hoped, would bring a better, brighter time to come.

The Communion of the People



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When Parliament enacted that henceforth in the Church of England the elements of the Sacrament should be received in both kinds, Cranmer had ready an Order of the Communion which was issued in 1548. This was a simple service of the Confession, Absolution, Comfortable Words, Prayer of Humble Access, and Sentence of Administration of the Bread and Wine, much as they are in the Prayer Book now, which was to be used in the Latin Mass when the moment for the people's communion came. The restoration of the chalice to the laity was considered by all to be a step towards restoring the original custos of the Early Church. The

emphasis on regular communions made frequently by the people was an attempt to end the medieval practice in which a man seldom made his communion more often than once a year.

In 1549 Cranmer's work came to fulfillment. He finished a complete revision of all the old *Continued on Page 4*

Communion of the People, Continued from Page 3 services, and the new Book of Common Prayer was ordered placed in use throughout England on Whitsunday of that year. What was the new Prayer Book like? What was the relation between the new English services and the old Latin ones of the Medieval church?

The complex services of the medieval Church required a bewildering array of service books for their complete performance. Eight times a day the clergy used their Breviary, a volume containing the hours of prayer and praise which had been recited daily for a thousand years, eight brief services of canticles and psalms, lessons and prayers. The order of mass was set out in another book, the Missal, though often the Epistles and Gospels were bound separately for use at services of great ceremony. Extra music books contained the appropriate hymns, introits and graduals which choral celebrations required. The parish priest had his manual or handbook of occasional services, including forms for matrimony, burials and the other offices which he was called upon to use with his people. Similarly, the bishop had his Pontifical, containing the rites which he alone performed. Lay folk who could read might possess a Mass Book Primer, or other collection of devotions for private use. Denied participation in the central acts of the church's worship by the barrier of the Latin language they used such books in church during the service.



Thomas Cranmer courtesy britannica.com

Cranmer was concerned, not only to purge these ancient services of many accumulations of abuses in doctrine and superstition, but also to achieve simplicity in the corporate worship of the Church.

Reprinted from "The Struggle for the Prayer Book," The National Council, 1945

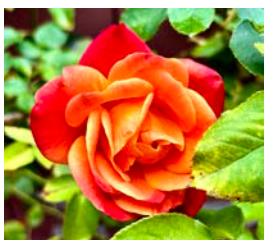


Beverly Reeves Politzer 1927-2025

Beverly Reeves Politzer died Saturday, October 18, 2025 at the age of 98. She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Wiley Reeves; the wife of the Reverend Jerome F. Politzer, Sr; the mother of Ann Politzer, Jerome F. Politzer, Jr, and Mary Politzer Pradier and the grandmother of Amelia and William Rosenberg, Jerome F. Politzer III and Paul, Jean and Thomas Pradier.

Private funeral services were held at San Carlos Cemetery, Monterey, California.

Any memorial contributions may be made to St. John's Chapel, Monterey or the Salvation Army, Salinas.



Altar Flowers: The Flower Chart is in its usual place in the Parish Hall. Reserve those important dates now. Costs are \$30.00 for regular seasonal flowers, greenery and candles, OR \$40.00 for roses.



St. John's Chapel, Del Monte December 2025 Schedule

Date	Activity	Notes
DECEMBER 7 Advent 2	Sunday, 10:00 AM - Lessons & Carols; Holy Communion	Fr. Richard Miles Celebrating
DECEMBER 14 Advent 3	Sunday, 10:00 AM - Holy Communion Sunday, 11:30AM – Vestry Meeting	Fr. Richard Miles Celebrating Senior Warden Conducting
DECEMBER 21 Advent 4	Sunday, 10:00 AM - Holy Communion	Fr. Richard Miles Celebrating
DECEMBER 24	Wednesday, Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM - Holy Communion	Fr. Richard Miles Celebrating
DECEMBER 25	Thursday, Christmas Day	
DECEMBER 28 Christmas 1	Sunday, 10:00 AM - Morning Prayer	Licensed Lay Reader Presiding
DECEMBER 31	Wednesday, New Year's Eve	

(Note Bene: Schedule subject to change depending on the front office.)

St John's Chapel Current Financial Encapsulation 2025 Year to Date¹

Income	\$ 185,839.00
Expenses	\$ 178,521.00
Bottom Line (+/-)	\$ +7,318.00

¹ as of Sunday 19OCT25

Can You Help St. John's Cut Expenses?

Dear Parishioners,

We are always in need of extra toilet paper and paper towel supplies. If you're shopping at COSTCO or another big box store, would you please pick up a packet of these items and bring them to church on Sunday? These small donations really add up in helping the Chapel defray extra expenses. Thanks so much for your help!

Volunteers Needed for All Ministry Areas

We need help in all ministry areas including acolytes, altar guild, lay readers, and ushers. If you're able to assist even one Sunday a month please contact the Church Office at (831) 375-4463

St. John's Chapel, Del Monte & Our Military Connection



David Jones, longtime member of our congregation, is undertaking the daunting task of chronicling the members of St. John's who have served in the military. Our connection to the military goes back even before the US Navy acquired the Del Monte Hotel. David is asking everyone in the congregation to search their memories and provide him with names, photographs in uniform (or partial thereof), any military memorabilia, and any history you might have. He can be

reached at davediane1@comcast.net, or you're welcome to chat with him during "coffee hour" after service on Sundays.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PLEDGE!

We need everyone's help. If you need a pledge card, there are extra cards on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

As of November 12 the following households have pledged their faith in our community and we are so very grateful: Dick & Elizabeth Barratt, Geoff & Amy Holland, Gail Strandberg, D'aun & Rick Miles, Jean Givetz, Joan Gorry, Marti Myszak, Sonny & Diana Vaughn, Monica Nathan, Eva Richards and Jerome Politzer.

Thank you one and all

BENEFIT SHOP

THE BENEFIT SHOP ACCEPTS

Clean, gently used clothing
Clean, working small appliances
Clean Kitchen items
Chinaware, Glassware
CDs and DVDs
Knick knacks and bric-a-brac
Small furniture items in good condition
Art and Art objects
Holiday items
Jewelry

WE DO NOT ACCEPT

ELECTRONICS: such as MEDICAL EQUIPMENT, PRINTERS, COPIERS, LAPTOPS, CELL PHONES, TELEVISIONS, OR COMPUTERS.

Soiled or worn-out clothing or shoes
Cassettes or VHS videos
Non-working small appliances
Broken, chipped, or cracked items
Worn kitchen ware
Broken jewelry or watches

Please Note: We do not have the woman-power to dispose of unsaleable items. Please do not leave items at the gate, it is unlawful.

We'll be celebrating St. John's 135th Anniversary on June 14, 2026, with several special observances. To help fund the event, Elizabeth Barratt is offering for sale this set of 8 luncheon/dessert plates from the historic Hotel Del Monte. Although priced at \$120 per plate, she is offering them to St. John's members at \$100 each for 7 plates in pristine condition, one for \$75 with a small chip not visible on the top; or \$775 for the set. These Syracuse China Co. plates date to the 1930s. If you are interested, please email Elizabeth at HRHANDQE3@gmail.com or call 831-241-6927.



Editorial Policy

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Cynthia Brown - Chapel Administrator
Mary Clare Martin - Organist
Jose Martinez - Sexton
Brieanne Goldberg - Bookkeeper
George Spelvin - Newsletter Publisher

Geoffrey Holland - Senior Warden
Art Brost - Junior Warden
Monica Nathan - Treasurer
Elizabeth Barratt - Clerk
Luke Stock Moran - Member
Chibby Ogbuka - Member

Jean Givetz - Member
Amy Holland - Member

