

ST. MARY'S MESSENGER

VOLUME 1

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ISSUE 12

From the Rector...

Sam Portaro is an Episcopal priest. He has served as chaplain at the University of Chicago and is now on the faculty of Virginia Seminary. He wrote a chapter about prayer in a little book that I am reading. As he moves through his chapter he reaches a point where he says that he is going to give two spiritual practices about prayer - only two. It seemed to me that it wasn't enough. Surely there must be more. Then I read the first one: **pay attention**. That's it for the first one and a more profound statement has never been written.

Pay attention.

It hit me right between the eyes. That is what Advent is really about, paying attention, paying attention to our heart. What is in our heart and what are willing to let in.

The act of paying attention requires all of our being. We cannot pay attention if we are distracted or if our minds are on something other than what is before us. To paying attention requires us to be intentional about it. It also means,



as Portaro writes, that we have be "a steward of the gift of attention that God has given me." To pay attention to someone then means that the person has our entire focus. The act of waiting for the Messiah takes the same kind of intentional engagement.

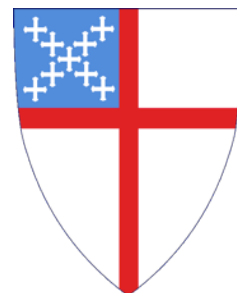
Portaro says that we have to pay attention to the present moment. That is a really difficult thing to do. The world swirls around us with all manner of distractions that try to draw our attention away from God. Our work is to resist those distractions with prayer. Prayer which can happen anywhere. Prayer that can take place with or without words. Prayer that ushers us into the near sacramental presence of God. The God of Creation who calls for our attention.

It's Advent a time where we are to be intentional about waiting and watching for the Incarnation.

It's Advent - a time to **pay attention**.

Peace,

Fr. Reid



Dixie's Reception



Recently St. Mary's held a reception in honor of our parish family member, Dixie Sewell, who was visiting from Alabama. Quite a few well-wishers stopped by to greet their old friend and spend some time with her. Everyone commented about how rested she looked. Come back soon, Dixie!!

Tom's Thoughts...

Have you ever noticed that when people are "under the gun" that they come up with the best sayings? On Thanksgiving Day I went to get some last minute items when I heard a frazzled employee state, "It's already a mad house and it's not even tomorrow yet!" Of course I understood that she was referring to Black Friday, however I couldn't help but tell her that her comment would make a great tee-shirt. She stopped, thought about it, and laughed. I left the story feeling that somehow I helped her.

Isn't this what God wants us to do? - Help each other (even in the smallest way)? I believe it is. All situations call for an appropriate response - and many times, humor helps a lot.



Scavenger Hunt Record!!



November 19 will go down in the historic annals of St. Mary's Episcopal Church!! On this day a "lucky" group of 13 individuals gathered to look for treasures left by passersby. We didn't think we'd find much - but our treasure trove yielded 36 (yes - that's right - **36**) bags of wonder....some of the more valuable prizes included: money, homework assignments, tire, a turtle, hub-cabs, lipstick, and pizza. (This really helped shorten our Christmas shopping list!)

Bishop Andy Doyle's Sermon on Advent



So, here is the truth: most of us don't get why we (Episcopalians) don't do

Christmas like the rest of the folks who have been working on it since before Halloween.

Some of us think, "Advent is inconvenient and I don't really understand it anyway." "Waiting" is not one of the cardinal virtues our society holds dear. Just consider on demand movie downloads ...

But, waiting *is* the point of Advent. Yes, waiting is inconvenient, but then, we are waiting for the coming of an inconvenient God!

Most days I'm looking for the convenient God—the one who gives me all the things I need—a God who will "level the mountains before me, raise up the valleys and make straight the paths." (Isaiah 40, Mark 1)

Most days I am looking for the God who is nearby when I need him and far away the rest of the time. And, if we are really honest: most of us want to be singing my favorite hymn: Bing Crosby's "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" now, with the rest of the ice skaters at the mall.

But the God of the Gospel, revealed to us in Advent, is very different. Advent comes in the darkest part of the year, when Christians have to wait to celebrate the coming of the Light of God, the Word of God, into our world. As Episcopalians, we can wait in several ways. We can make family dinners a priority, lighting the candles of the Advent wreath together with prayers and readings.

God's inconvenience is not limited to making the time to have a family meal, let alone pray. God's Gospel message is even more inconvenient than that!

Isaiah 40: 3-5 and Mark 1:2-3 speak of making the path straight, preparing the way--

not for us but for the coming of the Lord. Advent is a renovating time for our hearts to change our actions. We can use this time of Advent to become a unified voice in the wilderness.

It's not uncommon for people to believe that happiness lies in goods and wealth, in extravagant gift giving, when in fact these are misplaced values leaving many people unhappy and feeling unloved. The Good News we have received is not a private message, but a message of hope and love from God for all people. It is a message we can share with those who live in the midst of the "holiday" insanity.

We are waiting on a God who is interested in the good in every one of us and who cares how we treat our neighbors. (See Matthew 25:31-46) We are waiting on a God who is interested in the lost and lonely. The God we worship comes for those who are not at the table, who have little--the cast offs of society. This is a challenging God.

This is a God who is born homeless, into a lower class family, who is on an immigrant journey, who spends his time with those whom society deems unworthy. The God we are waiting on is inconvenient because many of the people God cares for are not like us. Our God comes for the poor and the rich, the old and the young, the weak and the powerful. God cares for people with whom we disagree politically, who have no homes or who have mansions, who drive nicer cars and who have no car, who have everything they need and those who don't even have clean water.

This inconvenient God has a message of love for everyone and he will ultimately offer it and himself to the whole world not in the hay of a manger but upon the hard wood of a cross.

Yes, our God came at an inconvenient time, in an inconvenient place, to people who were an inconvenience. This inconvenient God invites us--those who already know of their hope and salvation--to be part of the proclamation and to help in the work.

Even God's invitation is inconvenient. Marked as Christ's own forever, we discover that it is you and I who are to begin the work on the valleys, the mountains and the rough places. We are God's heralds, and we are his hands and feet in the world. We are the ones charged to work for the reign of God.

You might say, "That is a most inconvenient message because I have Christmas shopping to do!" Yep. We are waiting on a God who intervenes in our life, in our desires and in the way we want to do things. Our God invites us to gather as family at table in this season to share common meals with common prayers. We are invited to read scripture as a family in our home.

We are called to do this spiritual practice of Advent on the one hand so we may remember our own saving. And, on the other hand so that our eyes will be opened to God's people who are looking for help and aid.

We light our Advent wreath to remember that this inconvenient God sends us into the world bearing his light into the darkest of night. We bring greenery indoors to reminds us of life in the midst of winter so that we might be life and help life take shape and root itself in the world where death and hunger are constant companions to many on their pilgrim way.

In this Advent season I hope you will be inconvenienced by this inconvenient Christ we worship. I hope you will gather with your family or your friends at dark, break bread, read a passage of scripture and light a candle in your Advent wreath. I hope you will do this because I hope it will remind you of the saving grace of Jesus and the saving grace he has in store for the world, so much so, that you will see people in your life differently.

I hope in this Advent season that God will see and hear his people at work in the world. I hope God will see his people--and most of all the people of his Episcopal Church--transforming lives of those looking for a place to lie down, a place to be fed, a place to give birth. I hope he will see someone committing kindness in the stillness of the darkest night.

This I Believe...

My sisters both take really good care of Tom and me...they send funny emails, news updates, pictures, and positive affirmations.

Recently one sister sent us a link to this cool website called "This I Believe". It consists of essays written by "normal" (not famous) people. These short articles were magic and touched our hearts. Here is just one example - written by Susan Hall. We hope you like it as much as we do...



It showed up last Christmas, a gift borne by eager grandparents. Long and

unwieldy, we managed it through the front door, grandparents on the porch, I inside, angling it this way and that.

Since the unwrapped present's box boldly declared its contents, I dispensed with the usual wait-until-Christmas rule. We pried apart the box's sharp staples, and there it was: the mother of all electronic keyboards.

My son loves music. Diagnosed at age one with a rare seizure disorder that stalled his cognitive development, he is fond of rhythm, buttons, and lights. And so we have known some keyboards over the years. They've been presents from all over the place: eBay, garage

sales, a local grocery store. Our basement is a bone yard of broken keyboards, some still working erratically if pounded in the right spots.

The new present was spectacular. A song bank stores one hundred familiar tunes. By pressing a sequence of buttons, my son can change the instruments and tones in startling ways. We've heard everything from "Ode to Joy" with a disco beat to a haunting church organ rendition of "Happy Birthday."

I love the keyboard not because my son loves it, not because it is a great educational toy, but because it safely occupies him for long stretches. As long as I hear the stops and starts of the music blaring from my son's room, I have time to fold towels, grade a paper, throw a roast in the oven, or read about my son's disability. I have time to fantasize about mounting some public and terrific response to my son's affliction. The keyboards have been great babysitters.

One day I wandered into my son's room. "Beautiful Dreamer" was playing. I sat down on the floor to cut my toenails. My son leaned back and flashed me a beatific smile. I smiled back: the music was nice, the piano just right.

A few days later my son, insistent, led me to the

bathroom connected to his bedroom. He climbed up on the toilet and reached into a basket perched on the windowsill. Then he handed me a pair of nail clippers. Instantly I understood. And so I sat for a while on his bedroom floor, just listening with him. "Four-four," I requested, naming the number for my favorite tune, "Red River Valley."

He surprised me by accommodating my request, and we shared some smiles. As we listened, the sunlight came streaming through the blinds. It was brilliant and perfect and infused with that certain and unnamable something else.

The other day, curious, I looked up the lyrics to "Red River Valley."

*Come and sit by my side if you love me,
Do not hasten to bid me adieu.*

And so I have come to believe in sitting and listening with someone as a powerful act, a loving action full with possibility. This I have learned from my son and his special music, a belief forged only after I was able to take a moment and listen.



www.thisibelieve.com

From the Treasurer...



by **Tulisha Carson**

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

We continue to solicit donations toward our capital campaign drive "*Honoring Our Past ... Faith for Our Future*". We currently have pledges & donations of just over \$60,000.00 spread out over a 3 year period. I wanted to send a reminder that at the beginning of our drive, a challenge was issued by an anonymous donor that they would match all money raised by December 15, 2011, up to \$35,000.00. This challenge is for cash paid to the campaign, not pledges made. Currently we have received just over \$18,000 in cash donations so we have not maximized what we could gain from this challenge until we have raised \$35,000.00 (which would then become \$70,000.00 once the donor matches it!) Every dollar counts between now and December 15th and time is running out! These donations need to be received in the church office by Thursday, December 15th, to count toward the challenge.

CHURCH REPAIRS

Speaking of December 15th ... rumor has it that the work on the church building is scheduled to be completed on December 15th and cleaning and decorating can begin so that we are able to have our Christmas services in our church! This would certainly be a blessing, but as with any construction project, anything can happen so pray that those working will have smooth sailing as they finish up the last task of repainting the interior. If you have not seen it lately, stop by and take a look!

QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions about the Capital Campaign Drive or the Stewardship Campaign always feel free to contact me. Pledges for the Capital Campaign and the 2012 Stewardship Campaign can be made online by [clicking here](#).

St. Mary's Episcopal Church



DIOCESAN DELEGATE INFO

Delegates to Attend the 163rd Diocesan Council in Bryan/ College Station. We are allowed to have 4 delegates and one clergy person. If you are interested in serving as a delegate please add your name to the list of nominees.

Diocesan Council is the annual business meeting of the diocese held every February and this year it is February 10-11. It is a gathering of elected delegates from all congregations, college ministries and canonically resident clergy. The bishop serves as ex-officio president of the council. It will be held at the Brazos County Expo Complex in Bryan, TX. Registration and Exhibits open at 1:30 on Friday, followed by pre-council workshops. There will be an opening Eucharist that evening at 6:30 p.m. followed by a reception. Saturday morning there will be breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by the 1st session of the Business Meeting, noonday prayers and lunch at noon, and the 2nd session of the Business Meeting. Council ends by 3:00 p.m. The Exhibits are open all day on Saturday. For more information online go to <http://www.epicenter.org/council2012/>.

BABY CRIB NEEDED FOR 2-3 WEEKS

BABY CRIB AND MATTRESS: Our grandkids will be bunking with us from Dec 16-Jan 30 while our daughter Louise moves to Houston to take a new job. We would like to borrow a baby crib from anyone who can spare one - does NOT have to be fancy. Jeremiah is 1 years old (at the age that sleeping with him is difficult. If you can help, call Tom (254-290-0326) or Mary (512-556-1809). Thanks!

Mary Halvorson writes:

BILLY GRAHAM HAS A GOOD VIEW OF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR COUNTRY! THIS IS MORE THAN A PRAYER, IT REFLECTS WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN AMERICA OVER THE PAST 60 YEARS.

Commentator Paul Harvey aired this prayer on his radio program, 'The Rest of the Story,' and received a larger response to this program than any other he has

"Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and to seek your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good", but that is exactly what we have done.

We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

BILLY GRAHAM

ASHEVILLE, North Carolina (AP)

* The Rev. Billy Graham was admitted to a hospital Wednesday near his home in North Carolina to be tested for pneumonia after suffering from congestion, a cough



Current Age: 93.



We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self esteem.

We have abused power and called it politics.

We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us, Oh God, and know our hearts today; cleanse us from every sin and Set us free. Amen!"

(submitted by Mary Halvorson)

ECW UPDATE...

for all Episcopalian Women - AND **Men!**

There will be an **ECW meeting this coming Sunday December 4 at 9:00 am** in the Parish Hall. We will be discussing distribution of our funds to local charities.

Welcome to New Committee Chairs!

President - Linda Joseph

VP - Mary Halvorson

Treasurer - Jane Westerfield

Secretary - Mary Raring-Hart

Fall Luncheon - Bunny Johnson

Spring Luncheon - Marie Morgan

UTO - Eileen Williams

Bereavement - Judy Langsford

MARY'S "AH-HA" MOMENT...

Are you getting ready? I don't mean lights, and shopping, and wrapping - but getting "soul-ready"... getting "mind-ready" for Christmas?

Advent is different for each of us. Our perspective and involvement is colored by our histories, personalities, and current distractions (family, job, bills, etc.).

Last Sunday in Godly Play Libby Bluntzer explained Advent to our grand- daughter, Camille. Libby said that Advent was a mystery and that prophets foretold the coming of a King. She showed Camille how candle flame (and smoke after it was blown out) helped guide Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. Libby and Camille talked about the importance of "acting as a light" for others by telling the truth, being kind, and sharing.

The Advent Libby described was a time of "getting ready" on many different levels - people anticipating a King who would rescue them, a couple awaiting the arrival of their baby. Both wanted deliverance (from political oppression, from the ache of being pregnant, from uncertainty). She talked about "looking for the light" and being the light of Christ for others.

Libby's lesson didn't end neatly. When this Godly Play hour was over, Mary and Joseph were focused on trying to figure out how to get to Bethlehem and Jewish people were intent on getting ready for the King.

Maybe this is what Fr. Reid means when he writes, "**Pay attention**" - I need to give my full attention - and get my soul and mind ready for Christ(mas).

How to do this? Well, my "pay attention" list is:

- * listen more (talk less!)
- * daily devotional
- * take a personal inventory
- * slow down
- * let go - and let God (TRUST)
- * live mindfully



ST MARY'S PROGRAM UPDATES

December 4 - ECW Meeting at 9am

December 7 - Potluck and Fellowship at 6:30pm

December 11 - Elect Diocesan Delegates

December 14 - Vestry Meeting at 6:30pm

December 24 - Services at 4:00pm, 10:30pm

December 25 - Service at 11am, then Parish

Family

Potluck dinner

Godly Play changes to 10am (same time as service)

Wired Word is being replaced with a lectionary based program that will focus on one of the Sunday lessons called *Feasting on The Word*.

The Power of Positive Feelings

Dr. Charles Fay

I love the smell of burnt toast! That aroma... coupled with the odor of overcooked coffee... always leaves a warm feeling in my heart.

I once met a woman who loved the sound of trains. In fact, she loved this sound so much that she purchased a house near the tracks...so that she could experience the bone-rattling rumbles and blaring horns 24 hours a day.

Like this woman, I learned to love something because of the unconscious associations I developed through my experience as a child. Every time I went to my loving grandparents' home, my grandmother managed to burn the toast...and burn the coffee. This woman had a similar experience. Her loving grandmother lived...you guessed it...next to the train tracks.

The power of positive feelings is immense! When our kids experience love and joy coupled with chores...they associate doing chores with positive feelings.

When they experience warmth and affection coupled with learning...they come to associate academics with positive feelings.

When they feel our joy as we parent or educate them, they're far more likely to live a life filled with excitement and motivation instead of apprehension and apathy.

Sometimes I get shortsighted. Sometimes I forget all of this. Sometimes I allow myself to get cross and short and impatient, thinking that somehow my negativity will inspire my kids to cheerfully learn and complete their daily duties. I forget all of this when I don't take good care of myself.

Kids don't remember all of the things we try to teach them, but they will always remember how they felt when they were around us. Take great care of yourself so that you can give them the gift of loving learning, loving responsibility, and loving themselves.

(www.loveandlogic.com)



Advent 101

The good news of Advent is that if we wait, while we wait, in the waiting, God comes.

The word Advent means “coming.” It is a time to slow down, be quiet and meditate about the real meaning of Christmas. These four weeks before Christmas are a time to prepare our hearts and our lives as we wait for the coming of Jesus. We focus on the promise that God made to his people and how that promise was fulfilled in Jesus. Advent is also the beginning of the liturgical year. The season begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on the day before Christmas. It may be a time for new beginning for us as Christians.

In antiquity, purple dye was very expensive, so purple came to signify wealth, power and royalty. Therefore, purple is the color for the season of Advent, which celebrates the coming of the King. Many churches use blue in Advent which signifies hopeful expectation and is traditionally associated with the Virgin Mary. Somewhere along the way the third candle of the Advent wreath turned pink in honor of Mary. Originally, Advent was a solemn fast in preparation for Christmas, so the custom extended to the third Sunday in Advent was meant to liven it up a little bit.

For really good activities, “how to”, etc. go to:

<http://www.epicenter.org/the-season-of-advent/>

Talking about "Getting Ready"...

Ann Gilmore sent this photo of Noah's Ark. After seeing this huge boat I got curious and googled the photo. Genesis 6:15 says the Ark was 300 cubits long and 50 cubits wide. Apparently no one really knows EXACTLY what "cubit" is, but most agree this means roughly 450 ft by 75 ft.



In 2005 a Dutchman named Johan Huibers built this "Ark" model. Huibers took out bank loans to build this 1/2 size replica out of cedar and pine (not gopher wood). He keeps the model on a steel barge and pulls it through the canals; domesticated animals are kept on board to give children some idea of the size and purpose of the Ark. *Thanks, Ann!*

PINECONE PENGUINS

This family of painted pinecone birds colonizes a magical snowscape decorated with glitter, bits of flocking, and a mirror pond.

Tools and Materials

Scissors
2 large pinecone scales (for wings)
Sandpaper
1 small piece cut from top of a pinecone (for neck)
1 long pinecone (for body)
Small paintbrushes
Craft glue
White acrylic paint
1 acorn cap (for face)
White glass glitter
Brown acrylic paint

Pinecone Penguin How-To

1. Cut the large scales so that each comes to a point for wings.
2. Sandpaper neck piece so it will fit easily onto top of pinecone body. Brush top of body with glue; attach neck.
3. Paint belly (cover scales completely) and half of acorn cap white. Let dry.
4. Brush belly with glue; sprinkle with glitter. Let dry.
5. Brush neck with glue; attach acorn-cap face. Let dry.
6. Paint on brown eyes.
7. Brush rounded end of each wing with glue and attach to body. Let dry.

How-To Tip

Large scales -- used here to make wings, tails, and ears -- are common in eastern white, western white, and sugar pinecones.



(From www.marthastewart.com/pinecone-penguin)

ECW TACO SOUP LUNCHEON

by Mary Halvorson

2011 Fall Luncheon Chairperson

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I want to thank all who helped with the ECW Fall Luncheon.

Kathleen Woodby, co-chair, **Tulisha Carson** who made sure we had all the supplies, tickets and flyers, **Jane McMillan** for the wonderful and complete advertising, **Judy Lansford** for decorating, **Faye Mullins** for running the Bake Sale, **Sue Faulkner** and **Barbara Racino** for serving our guests, and Crafters **Libby Bluntzer**, **Bunny Johnson**, **Lola Cureton**, **Jane Westerfield**, and **Kathleen Woodby**.

Also to all the ladies who baked goods for the Bake Sale and luncheon, the ladies who cooked Taco Soup and Cornbread muffins.

I haven't forgotten the kitchen workers, **Libby**, **Marie Morgan**, **Fay**, and our "Honorary ECW" member - **Terry Sherman**. A big Thank you also goes out to **Linda Joseph** for delivering the "To-Go" meals, I think she also had a little help from Libby. If I have forgotten someone, please forgive me, it is not intentional - All ECW members contributed in some way - selling tickets, making a monetary donation, getting the word out, and a thousand other ways. We have much to be proud of - a larger deposit to our bank account than past years and the blessing of good friends working together. *Thank you all so very much.*



St Mary's Giving Tree



This Christmas, St. Mary's has adopted 5 local families for Christmas. We are providing the families with a full Christmas Day meal, gifts of clothing for each family member, and a toy gift for the children in the family.

Your participation is important!! Look for the small giving tree located in the parish hall. You will find cards on the tree in 5 different colors (one for each family). On the card will be the

gender, size and gift suggestion for a family member and an amount of the money needed to buy that item. Pick a card and write a check for the amount listed on the card, attach the check to the card, and drop it in the jar for that particular family.

After the money is collected, different committees will go shopping. Please come "play Santa" with us. You can: 1) shop for food, 2) shop for boy gifts, 3) shop for girl gifts, or 4) wrap the gifts. Just pick which group you want to join and let us know.

(The reason we are doing this as committees rather than by individuals is that we are hoping for bulk discounts and will be able to use St. Mary's tax exempt status to make the purchases tax free.)

All giving cards and checks need to be in by Friday, December 16th. Shopping committee members will do their shopping Monday & Tuesday, December 19th & 20th. Gift Wrapping committee members will do their wrapping on Wednesday, December 21st. Food Shopping Committee members will shop on Thursday, December 22nd. All deliveries to the families will be done on Friday, December 23rd by Fr. Reid & Linda Joseph.

Does this sound like fun? Well, **GET INVOLVED!**



Downeast Maine Pumpkin Bread

Original Recipe Yield 3 - 7x3 inch loaf pans

This is a great old Maine recipe, moist and spicy. The bread actually tastes even better the day after it is baked. Great for holiday gift giving!" *(I can't wait to bake this - over 4,700 5-star ratings means this is "wicked good!")*

Ingredients

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2/3 cup water
- 3 cups white sugar
- 3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease and flour three 7x3 inch loaf pans.
2. In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended. In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger. Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended. Pour into the prepared pans.
3. Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Jalapeno Cranberry Sauce

(I DID make this at Thanksgiving - WOW!!)

Ingredients

12 ounces fresh or frozen cranberries
1 cup water
1 cup white sugar
3 jalapeno peppers, seeded and minced
2 teaspoons lemon juice
1/2 cup sherry

Directions

Rinse berries in cold water; drain.

In a saucepan, mix water and sugar; stir to dissolve sugar. Bring to boil. Add cranberries, Jalapeno peppers, and lemon juice, and return to boil. Reduce heat and simmer gently for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add sherry and stir well. Remove from heat and let cool completely at room temperature.

Refrigerate in a glass container with cover. Serve with turkey or chicken.

(Since I don't eat meat, I served this with mashed potatoes and salad.)

The Back Page...

Do you realize we've had this newsletter going for an entire year now? AMAZING! Next month starts Volume 2...WOW. Fr. Reid always jokes that I talk too much (maybe this proves he isn't joking!). As we close out this first year, Tom and I want to wish you all a peaceful, loving, and healthy Christmas season - and a happy 2012.

